

**News from Global Engagement Division at
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Ambassador of the Republic of Korea H.E. Mr. Park Chong-suk , and KU Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Ram Kantha Makaju Shrestha Mark the Successful Completion of the First Phase of IRDP

Ambassador of the Republic of Korea H.E. Mr. Park Chong-suk, Kathmandu University Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Ram Kantha Makaju Shrestha, Registrar Prof. Dr. Subodh Sharma, and other Korean and Nepali officials participated in a program on December 18, 2020 at Kathmandu University (KU) in Dhulikhel to mark the successful completion of the 1st phase of the Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP). IRDP, which was established in 2016 with funding from Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), is jointly managed by KU, Jeonbuk National University (JBNU), and Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEPI) in South Korea. Its main objective is to improve the lives of rural people in Nepal by strengthening KU's research and development capacities.

As part of the program, officials from KU, JBNU, and STEPI gave presentations on the project's accomplishments during the 1st phase, some of which are: completion of IRDP/Nepal Technology Innovation Center (NTIC) master plan; initiation of the construction of KOICA-funded NTIC building (with a total floor area of 3117 sqm.) within KU premises in Dhulikhel; and completion of seven NTIC pilot projects.

IRDP has been working on three thematic areas: Agriculture and Rural Development; Alternative and Renewal Energy, and Health-Related Livelihood.

NTIC, which is a part of IRDP, will be focusing on seven specific areas—Research and Business Development (R&BD), Equipment Testing and Analysis, Smart Health Technology, School-Based

Enterprise, Start-Up & Incubation, Training & Education, Technology Database (DB) & Networking—in the 2nd phase, which will start from 2021.

In 2014, KOICA supported the establishment of Kathmandu University Technical Training Center at KU to provide skill-orientation training to under-privileged and unemployed youths in Nepal.

During the program, Prof. Dr. Ram Kantha Makaju Shrestha expressed his gratitude to the government of the Republic of Korea for its support through KOICA, and H.E Park Chong-suk assured that such support to KU will continue in the future.



Thai Ambassador H.E. Mr. Vosita Vorasaph Visits KU-Managed Tripureshwor Mahadev Temple Rebuilding Site in Kathmandu

Thai Ambassador to Nepal H.E. Mr. Vosita Vorasaph, accompanied by Deputy Chief of Mission at Royal Thai Embassy in Kathmandu Ms. Utoomporn Ampavit, visited the 'Tripureshwor Mahadev Temple, *Sattals* and Garden Area' rebuilding site in Tripureshwor, Kathmandu on December 17, 2020.

KU Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Ram Kantha Makaju Shrestha, Registrar Prof. Dr. Subodh Sharma and other KU officials welcomed the Thai delegates, and KU Head of the Department of Music Associate Prof. Dr. Lochan Rijal gave a brief presentation on the progress till date in the rebuilding efforts.

The rebuilding work of this historical 19th-century Shivalaya, and its surrounding structures, which were destroyed in the 2015 earthquake, is being managed--and will be maintained--by Kathmandu University (KU)'s Department of Music. This site currently employs traditionally trained artisans and construction workers. KU, in its capacity as an academic institution, aims to preserve and maintain tangible heritage by amalgamating intangible knowledge through

research and academic activities.

On April 06, 2016 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between KU and Nepal government's Guthi Sansthan to rebuild Tripureshwor Mahadev Temple and *Sattals*. Nepali musicians and musician scholars raised the initial funds for the project, which were later supplemented by KU through pre-financing. The project took an exponential growth after it received generous support from the people and the Government of Thailand, through the National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) of the Government of Nepal, and remains a vivid illustration of Nepal-Thailand cooperation.

JAPANESE LANGUAGE CLASS FOR KATHMANDU UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by Prof. Dr. Bim Prasad Shrestha, Professor at Kathmandu University (KU) and Director of KU Student Welfare Directorate, and Vice Chancellor's Office of Global Engagement, and Ms. Keiko Wada, Board Chairperson of the Association for Nepal Synapse Self-Reliance Support in Japan (ANSSSJ) in Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan on October 2, 2020 to start a Japanese language class at KU for its students. The class, which will be formally known as Fordays Japanese Language Class, will be initially run in the online system, and later, once the current Covid-19 situation improves, in the physical class within KU premises in Dhulikhel.

At the beginning of the virtual MOU signing ceremony, former Nepalese Ambassador to Japan Mr. Ganesh Yonzan, and Ms. Keiko Wada highlighted the importance of the language class, and wished for its success. They were followed by several other KU faculty who spoke about topics related to the Japanese language class: Prof. Dr. Bim Prasad Shrestha on "How the program came into existence, and the way forward;" Dr. Hem Raj Kafle (Associate Professor, and Head, Dept. of Management Informatics and Communication, KU) on "How teaching Japanese language to KU students fits in with KU's overall educational objectives," and Dr. Shyam Sundar Khadka (Assistant Professor at the School of Engineering and Associate Director for KU Student Welfare Directorate) on "How Fordays Japanese language class will be implemented." Senior Manager at Vice Chancellor's Office of Global Engagement at KU Mr. Yamal C. Rajbhandary thanked the members of ANSSSJ in Japan for their support, and expressed his hope that there will be additional opportunities like this--at individual and institutional levels--in the future to further cement the goodwill existing between ANSSSJ and KU.

The then KU School of Management Dean Prof. Dr. Bijay K.C., ANSSSJ Secretary-General Mr. Toshihiko Wada, and ANSSSJ Representative in Nepal Mr. Takeshi Okawara were also present at the MOU signing program.

Students and faculty interested in learning more about Fordays Japanese Language class at KU can get in touch with the KU Contact for the MOU Dr. Shyam Sundar Khadka at sskhadka@ku.edu.np.

Warmest wishes for the New Year!

Prepared by the team of Prof. Dr. Bim Prasad Shrestha, Mr. Yamal C. Rajbhandary, and Ms. Merina K.C. at Global Engagement Division at Kathmandu, University in Dhulikhel, Kavre. Please write to geo@ku.edu.np if you have any feedback, or would like to share additional information for future newsletters.
