

## PRESS RELEASE

The Government of Japan, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has agreed to provide a grant assistance of Japanese Yen 300 million (approximately NRs 272.7 million) to the Government of Nepal for the implementation of School Sector Reform Programme (SSRP) extension plan. The Exchange of Note to this effect was signed between Government of Nepal and the Government of Japan at the Ministry of Finance, Kathmandu, today.

SSRP has been implemented in Nepal since 2009 in form of programmatic support with its objective of improving literacy for all in general and deprived in particular and ensuring free and compulsory basic education as well as quality of education. This program was supposed end 2013/14 in term of fund availability. Considering the relevancy of programme objectives; target and implementation strategies, Government of Nepal has decided to extend this project implementation period for another two years with pre-stated goal and strategies as they were manifested in previous SSRP main document.

The exchange of Note was signed by Mr. Suman Prasad Sharma, Secretary, Ministry of Finance and H.E. Mr. Masashi Ogawa, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Nepal, on behalf of their respective Governments. Similarly, Mr. Madhu Kumar Marasini, Chief and Joint Secretary, International Economic Cooperation Coordination Division (IECCD), Ministry of Finance and Mr. Tsutomu Shimizu, Chief Representative, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Nepal signed on grant agreement and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

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

Ministry of Finance  
Singhdurbar, Kathmandu  
23 September 2014 (Aswin 07, 2071)