

**MINUTES OF MEETINGS
BETWEEN JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY
AND
CENTRAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS, NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
SECRETARIAT
OF GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL
ON THE FIRST JOINT COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING
FOR
THE PROJECT ON CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF ECONOMIC CENSUS 2018 IN NEPAL**

The First Joint Coordinating Committee (hereinafter referred to as “JCC”) meeting between Japan International Cooperation Agency (hereinafter referred to as “JICA”) and authorities concerned of Central Bureau of Statistics, National Planning Commission Secretariat, Government of Nepal on the Project on Capacity Development for the Implementation of Economic Census 2018 in Nepal (hereinafter referred to as “the Project”) was held on 22 November 2016.

At the table of the JCC meeting, the authorities concerned of both sides convened a series of fruitful discussions for the smooth operation of the Project.

As a result of the discussions, both Central Bureau of Statistics and JICA had common understandings relating to the matters in the documents attached hereto.

Kathmandu, 25 January 2017

ATTACHED DOCUMENT

Name of Project : Project on Capacity Development for the Implementation of Economic Census 2018 in Nepal
Meeting title : The First Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting of JICA Project on Capacity Development for the Implementation of Economic Census 2018 in Nepal
Date : 22 November 2016
Venue : Meeting Room, 1st Floor, New Building, Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), Thapathali, Kathmandu
The Name of the person presiding: Mr. Suman Raj Aryal, Director General, CBS

Attendance list :

Mr. Suman Raj Aryal, Director General, CBS
Dr. Rudra Suwal, Deputy Director General, CBS
Mr. Nebin Lal Shrestha, Deputy Director General, CBS
Mr. Anil Sharma, Director, Economic Census Section, CBS
Mr. Mahesh Chand Pradhan, Director, Economic Census Section, CBS
Mr. Rajesh Dhital, Director, Establishment Census & Survey Section, CBS
Mr. Prakash Pokheral, Statistics Officer, Economic Census Section, CBS
Mr. Bikash Malla, Statistics Officer, Economic Census Section, CBS
Mr. Bed Prasad Dhakal, Statistics Officer, Establishment Census & Survey Section, CBS
Mr. Suresh Prasad Kayastha, Computer Officer, Establishment Census & Survey Section, CBS
Mr. Kapil Dev Joshi, Statistics Officer, Publication, Distribution & Library Section, CBS
Dr. Dilli Raj Aryal, Senior Statistician, Ministry of Finance
Mr. Jun Sakuma, Chief Representative, JICA Nepal Office
Mr. Yuki Daizumoto, Assistant Representative, JICA Nepal Office
Mr. Gopal Gurung, Associate Program Manager, JICA Nepal Office
Ms Brinda Singh, Public Relations Officer, JICA Nepal Office
Mr. Fumihiko Nishi, JICA expert (Chief Advisor), The Project
Mr. Furuichi Koichiro, JICA expert, The Project
Mr. Shigeo Kato, JICA expert (Coordinator), The Project
Ms Jaya Paudyal, Office Administrator, The Project
Mr. Akihito Yamauchi, Leader, JICA Consultant, The Project
Prof. Dr. Nobuo Hirohata, JICA Consultant, The Project
Ms Emi Harada, JICA Consultant, The Project
Mr. Katte Naruo, Researcher, Embassy of Japan
Mr. Rahish Shrestha, Economic Researcher, Embassy of Japan




< The Summary of Meeting >

1. Opening Speech

Mr. Suman Raj Aryal, Director General, Central Bureau of Statistics

- (1) It is my great pleasure to welcome you all and preside over the first meeting of Joint Coordinating Committee of Japan International Cooperation Agency project on Capacity Development for the Implementation of Economic Census 2018 in Nepal.
- (2) Today we are going to discuss on the progress of the mentioned project since its inception. There will be other relevant issues as well. I humbly request all of you for the meaningful and constructive discussion.
- (3) I think, and there wouldn't be doubt that these are the really challenging times for Nepal. Last year, constituent assembly promulgated the nation's new constitution. We Nepalese believe that we have started a new journey of economic development and social progress.
- (4) Beside this, Government of Nepal has recently put forward its fourteenth plan approach paper. The main objective of the plan is to achieve high growth rate. Apart from this, graduation from LDC to DC is national vision of the country.
- (5) The globe has implanted a new development agenda of sustainable development. One of the themes of this agenda is no one left behind. This slogan has statistical importance. Taking care of these things countries around the world are carving SDG consistent policies. Policies should be evidence based. We believe in evidence based policies. We should take care of nation building. We are nation builders. For this we have to have information, quality information of every one and every unit.
- (6) The first economic census of Nepal is a very important step to fulfill the requirements for monitoring and evaluating the economic development as anticipated by constitution, and other plans and policies.
- (7) This is the first JCC meeting and I think there is no much to say about the project. However, I must share some of the good beginnings of this project. We have drafted the questionnaire. We are preparing the CAPI and online platform. We are almost in ready position for pilot work. We have formed the technical committee and have made necessary process for creating steering committee. So, thanks goes to all of my CBS and Japanese friends. Special thanks goes to DDG Nebin Sir for his excellent management.
- (8) In addition to this acknowledgement, I must share our sentiments behind starting Economic Census in Nepal. Actually, Economic Census was our dream. We all know, this is a big statistical operation, which requires huge resources. And we did not have any exposures and experiences of Economic Census. However, we conducting census of manufacturing establishments quinquennial. At these challenging moments, it was very hard to conduct big statistical operation on its own way.
- (9) I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to JICA for its generous and valuable support in this regard. Similarly, we are also obliged to the Statistics Bureau of Japan for its support. And I would like to share that, CBS is committed to complete this task within the stipulated timeframe.
- (10) Last but not least, on behalf of CBS, may I request friends from JICA Head Quarter and Statistics of Bureau of Japan to convey my best wishes and warm regards to their heads of their organizations.

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M. S. Aryal
Suman Raj Aryal


2. Opening Remarks

Mr. Jun Sakuma, Chief Representative, JICA Nepal Office

- (1) It is my great pleasure to attend this first JCC meeting of the “Project on Capacity Development for the Implementation of Economic Census 2018”. The direct objective of this project is enhancing the capacity of Statistical Officials of CBS to successfully conduct the Economic Census in 2018. As all of you know, economic Census is so significant as it gives us the basic data and information for planning and implementation of policies, plans and strategies.
- (2) The Government of Nepal has announced to graduate from LDC countries by 2022, and to become a middle income country by 2030. This is not going to happen easily; it needs proper planning to achieve and indicators to justify. Also, to bring FDI and flourish the private sector in Nepal, accurate data are necessary for the evidence-based policy planning and investments. Such data are also essential to compare regions with the country and comparison outside the country. That’s why this Economic Census is important for Nepal and this project should be properly implemented. Other countries in South Asia have already conducted the Economic Census and Nepal should not be left behind.
- (3) Let me emphasize that this is a Technical Cooperation project where we intend to transfer the rich Japanese’s experience to the CBS. There are set of activities this project has to achieve in due to course of time to implement the Economic Census in 2018. The first one is the Training of Enumerators, pilot census including e-Census, census mapping etc. The detail activities which this project has to implement and achieve will be shortly presented to all of us which I don’t want to go. And these activities will subsequently produce the result by early 2019 to be utilized by the line ministries, private sector, researchers, academicians and individuals for future planning and investments.
- (4) Furthermore, we also have to finalize how detail we are going to collect the census this time. We count the registered business, fixed, movable or even mobile business. However, it will have direct relation with the budget, human resource and time available with CBS or even with the Government of Nepal. So CBS must plan cautiously and allocate enough resources for it with close coordination with the Ministry of Finance and other stakeholders. Of course we JICA will provide support as much as possible for the successful implementation of this project.
- (5) Recently, a delegation from CBS made a study visit to Indonesia. I am quite confident that they must have learned lots of policy issues and field level practical experience. One of the significant learning as I was told was the strong support from the leadership in Indonesia. So I also urge CBS to quickly form a National Steering Committee, a coordination mechanism of all the stakeholders and high level committee in the country, to support the Economic census 2018 activities and make it functional. Nonetheless to say, CBS’s strong commitments and leadership are prerequisite for this project.
- (6) I think the economic census is definitely a big challenge. However, I am optimistic as I know that CBS also has long experience of implementing population census, Agriculture census and recently collecting data for the household survey for the earthquake damaged houses. I hope we will manage the project together under close cooperation among us and to make Economic Census 2018 a success.

3. Presentation

1) Brief Progress Report (March to Oct. 2016),

Mr. Fumihiko Nishi, Chief Advisor of the Project, reported briefly on progress of project activities.

(Annex 1)

2) Inception Report of JICA Consultant Team,

Mr. Akihito Yamauchi, Leader of JICA Consultant Team of the Project, delivered Inception Report.

(Annex 2)

3) Progress Report of the Economic Census 2018 of Nepal,

Mr. Mahesh Chand Pradhan, Director, Economic Census Section, CBS reported progress of the preparation on Economic Census 2018 of Nepal

(Annex 3)

- (1) Mr. Gopal Gurung, JICA Nepal Office, asked the following issues;
 - i. When are expected dates for formation of committees?
 - ii. How private sectors will be informed of implementation of the Economic Census?
 - iii. The presenter reported that the economic census decree is being undertaken by cabinet. When this process should be finalized by?
 - iv. CBS has experience in implementation of cascaded training courses and it may be planning it for the EC 2018. What is time frames them for EC 2018.
- (2) Mr. Mahesh Chand Pradhan answered as below;
 - i. In CBS, relevant activities have been proceeded to formulate committees and forwarded to the concerned authorities. We are pleased to inform that Economic Census Technical Committee has been formed.
 - ii. The representative from the Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) has been made the member of the Economic Census Technical Committee. Also there is provision of inviting the private sectors in the technical committee as well as in the different forums like inception seminars, and relevant workshops with the purpose to let them know about Economic Census 2018 and get their cooperation. The economic census decree will be proceeded soon as possible. CBS has a annual programe to proceed the census decree and approve in higher authorities.
 - iii. Plan and programs of pilot trainings as well as timing plan have been tentatively drafted.
- (3) Dr. Dilli Raj Aryal, Ministry of Finance, asked a reason(s) CBS excluding four (4) International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) Sections (A, O, T, and U) from the coverage of EC2018.
- (4) Mr. Pradhan responded that exclusion of agriculture sector was due to inclusion in agriculture census discussed but economic units doing agriculture activities and registered, will be counted in Economic Census. Other sectors (O,T,U) are excluded from enumeration in Economic Census due to easy access in data on public administration (O), incorporating of household activities in population census. May be the exclusion issue will be better elaborated by Chief advisor Mr. Nishi.
- (5) Mr. Fumihiko Nishi, Chief Advisor, the Project, responded issues inquired by Dr. Aryal as below;
 - i. It is based on international practice. Most of countries exclude these four (4) Sections in Economic Census. For the purpose of international comparison, CBS needs to follow international standard.

- ii. For your reference, post offices are covered by EC2018 because they do not belong to “Section O. Public administration and defense; compulsory social security” but belong to “Section H. Transportation and storage”.
- (6) Dr. Dilli Raj Aryal, mentioned further that agriculture sector is now growing up and many organizations have recently appeared.
- (7) Mr. Nishi responded it as below;
If it is so, it is possible to consider including registered establishments in Agriculture Sections. However, if CBS adds them into the coverage, CBS needs more budget to extend its coverage.
- (8) Dr. Aryal enquired that although National Steering Committee consists of the members from Government of Nepal only, how does CBS incorporate private sector into EC2018?
- (9) Mr. Nishi answered that CBS was planning to hold an EC2018 inception seminar and to invite not only government sector but also private sectors.
- (10) The chairman of JCC Mr. Suman Raj Aryal, DG of CBS discussed the following ;
 - i. the Steering Committee will be formed in the near future.
 - ii. In regard with inquiries on four categories excluded from the EC 2018, the forthcoming EC 2018 covers only viable economic activities. The technical issues will be separately discussed in thematic group.
 - iii. CBS introduces e-Census system into the EC 2018 for the first time in Nepal.

4) : Issues to be Discussed on the Economic Census 2018 of Nepal,

Mr. Anil Sharma, Director, Economic Census Section, CBS presented the the issues to be discussed for the operation of the Project, and requested support for input from the Japanese side (Annex 4)

- (1) Mr. Jun Sakuma, JICA Nepal Office, responded requests by the Mr. Sharma as below;
 - i. Both the Nepalese side and the Japanese side agreed with basic framework that expenses necessary for the implementation of the Project was to be borne the Nepalese side, as concluded with Record of Discussions for the Project. The issues should be solved as per technical cooperation made on the RD. JICA understood that another consultative meeting(s) might be needed to consider how to solve what might be remained as results of efforts of the Nepalese side mentioned above
- (2) Mr. Anil Sharma responded as below:
 - a. CBS has been trying efforts in allocating the budget as possible as for pilot training.
 - b. Also Mr. Anil Sharma mentioned the need of assistance to equip all 33 Statistics Offices, while it was only mentioned 4 districts in the RD.
- (3) Mr. Nebin Lal Shrestha, Deputy Director General (Project Director) CBS, discussed as below;

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Sharma
Nishi
(Signature)

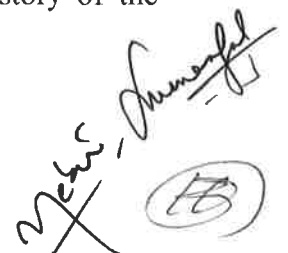

- i. Detail issues should be solved by both the JICA side and the CBS side. Time frames of future activities should also be discussed.
 - ii. The program lasts up to 2021. I hope that the forthcoming population census related work would be taken into consideration for the above mentioned time frame of the project.
- (4) Dr. Rudra Suwal, CBS, mentioned as follows: Next Population Census is to be conducted in 2021. There are only three years between the Economic Census 2018 and the Population Census 2021. As you know, Population Census is the largest in three censuses and requires deliberate preparation. Therefore, I would like to ask the Economic Census team to go through time frame so that you can complete the works of Economic Census 2018 as early as possible.
- (5) Ms Yuki Daizumoto, JICA Nepal Office, commented the following three (3) points;
- i. Regarding budget, JICA has budget constraint so far, as Mr. Sakuma, Chief Representative, JICA Nepal Office, told you earlier, because JICA had formulated budget based on Record of Discussions agreed by both parties.
 - ii. The Project is a joint project to be implemented by both CBS and JICA. JICA Nepal Office understands that challenges arisen in during the operation of the project should not be solved by only a party, but both parties should tackle and solve it jointly. If it would be necessary to adjust the Project Design Matrix (PDM) or the Plan of Operation (PO), it is better to discuss with JICA experts.
 - iii. JICA Nepal Office discusses those issues with you in the future.

5. Closing Address,

Mr. Nebin Lal Shrestha, Deputy Director General, CBS

- (1) It is my great pleasure to be a part of the JCC Meeting. Though this is a 1st JCC meeting, I think it was very productive. Many things have been discussed and agreed (some are yet to be agreed). Those things that were agreed will be implemented soon.
- (2) As you know we do not have good administrative database management system to capture all economic activities within the country. Also in the absence of the Statistical Business Register, it has been difficult for us to estimate the size and characteristics of the economic units within the country.
- (3) With this Economic Census, we hope we will be able to improve the availability and quality of existing basic economic statistics in Nepal. Also, it will definitely help to enhance the National Accounts Estimates of Nepal as well as support to monitor 2030 agenda of SDGs and current 14th year plan of the Government of Nepal.
- (4) Further, it will also help to establish survey frames and Statistical Business Register in a more integrated manner.
- (5) Actually, Economic Census of Nepal is our dream. But we were not yet been able to conduct it because of the absence of Technical Support. With the support of the JICA/Nepal, we are now in the position to conduct the 1st Economic Census in Nepal in 2018, and I hope this is going to be a milestone in the history of the Economic Census in Nepal.

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Nebin Lal Shrestha



- (6) As we know, the JICA Technical Assistance Program is for five (5) years from 2016 to 2020. So far we have completed almost eight (8) months. During this eight (8) months period, we got a very remarkable support from JICA like in hardware, software and technical capacity building of CBS officials.
- (7) On behalf of CBS I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Government of Japan and JICA Office for the invaluable support we are receiving.
- (8) I thank very much to all presenters for their concise and comprehensive presentation. And thanks to all participants for your active participation and feedbacks.
- (9) The effort of JICA consultant team and CBS officials working for the Economic Census is very appreciable. Many many thanks to all of you.
- (10) We are very much delighted by the presence of the Chief Representative and other high level delegates from JICA, Embassy of Japan and the Government of Nepal. Thank you very much for your presence and remarks.

END

- Annex 1 Brief Progress Report (March to Oct. 2016), Mr. Fumihiko Nishi, Chief Advisor of the Project
- Annex 2 Report of JICA Consultant Team, Mr. Akihito Yamauchi, Leader of JICA Consultant Team of the Project
- Annex 3 Progress Report of the 2018 Economic Census, Mr. Mahesh Chand Pradhan, Director, Economic Census Section, CBS
- Annex 4 Issues to be discussed, Mr. Anil Sharma, Director, Economic Census Section, CBS

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Mahesh Chand Pradhan
Anil Sharma

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