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རྒྱལ་གཞུང་གི་གཞིགས་ལྷན་ཚོགས།
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
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Press Release on the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) funded by the Government of Japan

The Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) for Bhutan was launched in 2018 by the Royal Government of Bhutan with the support from the Government of Japan. It has been identified as one of the areas of support in developing the human resource capacity in Bhutan from 2018 to 2022.

As the first phase of the Project comes to an end with the completion of the fourth batch (2022), the Government of Japan agreed to extend the Project to its second phase from 2023 to 2026. The Royal Civil Service Commission (RCSC) and JICA Bhutan Office signed Minutes of Discussion for the preparatory survey of the second phase of 'The project for Human Resource Development (JDS scholarship) today.

The Project is for a duration of four years consisting of four batches, for which a total of 9 master's programs and 1 PhD program will be offered annually. So far, three batches of JDS fellows have been sent for the program which includes 26 candidates for masters and 3 for PhD out of which 9 of them have completed and 17 of them are still continuing their studies in Japan.

The priority areas identified for the upcoming phase were based on priority areas identified by agencies which were gathered through a needs survey carried out by JICA. They are grouped under two sub-programs: (i) Improving Administrative ability and Institution Building under which Economic Policy Development (2 slots) and Public Policy/ Administration/ International Relations (4 slots), and (ii) Building a Strong Base for Sustained Economic Growth under which Agriculture and Rural Development Policy (1 slot) and Countermeasures for Climate Change Policy and Disaster risk Management and Infrastructure Development Policy for Sustainable Economic Growth (2 slots) will be offered annually.

With regard to the PhD program the areas of specialization are: Economics, Engineering, Seismology, Flood Disaster, and Data Analytics/Mining/Artificial Intelligence. A total of 36 masters programs and 4 PhD programs will be offered during the period of the Project.

The Project will immensely benefit Bhutan in terms of its human resource capacity building in the Civil Service and in further strengthening the bilateral relation between the Royal Government of Bhutan and the Government of Japan.