



Photos Dipen Shrestha

Employment opportunities for Nepalis in Japan

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SABITRI DHAKAL | Kathmandu

Japan is currently facing a significant challenge with its growing elderly population and declining childbirth rates. This demographic shift has led to the decline of extended families, resulting in a demand for caretakers in the Japanese market. A team of Japanese experts recently discussed the shortage of human resources and the increasing elderly population, highlighting the opportunities for Nepalis to address the human resource crisis in Japan.

In a discussion organized by Annapurna Media Network on Tuesday, they shed light on the ways Nepalis can apply for semi-skilled worker positions in Japan and economically benefit from these opportunities.

In the interaction, Sanat Neupane, CEO of Annapurna Media Network, shared his perspective on Nepal-Japan relations and the migration of Nepalis seeking employment abroad. He said that Nepal and Japan have a long-standing friendship, and added that the network has been advocating for the healthcare and rights of migrant workers.

Given below is the viewpoints of the members of the delegations in their own words:

shortages in various industries, the Japanese government has come up with the semi-skilled worker scheme. Under the new conditions, about 60,000 foreign workers will be allowed to enter Japan. Nepalis can cope with any kind of situation and can control their feelings and emotions, which is why there is a demand for Nepalis in Japan.

Go Uehara
CEO, Blue Sky Japan



I am thankful for the opportunity to share about our work here. Our company has been providing employment for 200 Nepalis, and we are eager to offer employment opportunities to more Nepalis. People from across the world have come to Japan to work in the caregiver sector in the elderly care homes. We are focusing on how we can safely take Nepalis to Japan without them being cheated by middlemen.



Naohiro Beppu
General Manager, Planning Division, Medical Corporation Seihoukai

We have been running nursing homes and hospitals in Japan. I have noticed that Nepalis are close to the pronunciation of the Japanese language, which is crucial for effective communication in elderly care. Nepalis are smart in developing these communication skills. We believe that Nepalis can benefit a lot. We have already decided to take 12 Nepalis and are eager to recruit more. Currently, we have 2,500 people working with us, and we are looking to add more Nepalis to our team.

Minoru Fujisawa
Trainer/Caregiver specialist, Medical Corporation Seihoukai
I am responsible for the training



component in the company, and I strongly believe in the importance of continuous training for better job performance. In our experience, even Japanese employees may not possess all the required skills in the beginning, but Nepalis have demonstrated better skills, and they are easy to teach. Once they receive proper training, it significantly eases their work and enhances their abilities. With their inherent skills and the added benefits of training, I have full confidence that Nepali caregivers can excel in their roles and achieve remarkable outcomes.



Yoshiyuki Masuda
General Manager, HR Division, Medical Corporation Eiseikai

I have been involved in running health care institutions, and one of the challenges we face is that elderly people often seek emergency services at a particular health institution but then have to go to other places for further treatment. Many prefer different health institutions for extended hospital stays rather than the one they used for emergency care. Additionally, doctors often recommend physiotherapy treatments for patients, but some patients prefer to stay at home, and they cannot be left alone without proper care. This has created a significant need for caretakers to assist these patients with their daily needs.

Moreover, nursing care is also in high demand for patients who require specialized attention and support. Health practitioners also visit patients' homes for follow-up care. Due to these factors, there has been a wide demand for caretakers in Japan. Nepalis are smart, dedicated, and honest in their work. Because of these attributes, we have been actively seeking to recruit Nepali caregivers in our health

institutions. I have already listed eight Nepalis for the second round of interview.



Akiko Wakata
Chief, HR Division, Medical Corporation Konoikekai

I am truly impressed by the Nepalis' ability to speak Japanese properly. I have observed that they possess excellent caring skills, and those with nursing expertise will find it much easier to adapt to life in Japan. I am eager to provide caregiver certificates to Nepalis who are willing to stay and work in Japan. Currently, I have already listed six Nepalis for interviews, and I am highly interested in increasing the number to 12 or even 18.



Santosh Poudel
Director, Blue Sky Japan

To apply for the visa in Japan under this scheme, one must pass the Japanese language test. The test can be taken after completing three months of language classes at any recognized language institution in Nepal. Anyone willing to apply for the caretaker position, can sit for the test, which includes fundamental questions about caretaking. The test format is multiple-choice, and the applicant has the option to take it in either Nepali or Japanese language. The application process is free of cost, and the air ticket will also be provided at no charge. Once selected, you can work for eight hours per day and earn Rs 200,000 per month, along with access to insurance facilities. Anyone below the age of 60 are eligible to apply for this position. The companies will offer a minimum five-year contract, and the visa should be renewed every year. Also, the applicants can take a certificate within five years of their tenure and then apply for a permanent residence in Japan ■

Briefs...

Saudi Arabia to grant Yemen \$1.2bn in economic aid



Saudi Arabia said it will grant \$1.2bn in financial aid to Yemen's internationally recognized government in a bid to bolster the country's struggling economy.

Riyadh said in a statement the cash injection is part of Saudi Arabia's ongoing efforts to help stabilize Yemeni food prices, address the country's budget deficit and support salary payments.

Yemen's civil war, now entering its ninth year, has ravaged the country's economy, catapulted food prices and pushed half of the population to the brink of famine.

Schools closed for dengue control in Dharan



All educational institutions operational in Dharan sub-metropolis of Sunsari have been closed for effective campaigns against dengue outbreak. The executive committee meeting took the decision to engage collective efforts for prevention and control of the contagion.

Dharan sub-metropolis mayor Harka Raj Sampang informed that the decision was made to run a dengue control campaign by pausing teaching and learning activities in the schools. The sub-metropolis has called for the teachers and students of the schools to get engaged in the dengue control campaign during holidays.

Chief Administrative Officer of Dharan sub-metropolis, Matrika Bhattarai said schools were shut down to effectively run a campaign of search and destroy mosquito larva of mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*) against dengue.

Indonesia buys 12 drones worth \$300m from Turkey



The Indonesian government bought 12 drones worth \$300m from Turkish Aerospace as part of efforts to strengthen Indonesia's defense system, according to a written statement from the Indonesian Defense Ministry on Wednesday.

The purchase aims to increase the variety, quantity and quality of Indonesia's military defense equipment with the contract signed Feb 3 with Turkish Aerospace, which is headquartered in the capital, Ankara. The 12 units of ANKA drones are expected to be delivered before November 2025.

In January, Indonesia sealed another deal worth \$805m to buy a dozen advanced Mirage 2000-5 fighter jets that were used by the Qatari air force.