



Signing of the Grant Agreement for Landslide Risk Reduction in Bhutan (Equipment for soil testing) through Economic and Social Development Programme, and the Record of Discussions for the Technical Cooperation Project for Capacity Development in Landslide Risk Reduction

Joint Press Release

Thimphu, 6 February 2026 – The Ministry of Finance (MoF) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Bhutan Office signed Grant Agreement under Japan's Economic and Social Development Programme (ESDP). The agreement was signed by Mr. Tshering Dorji, Director General of the Department of Macro-Fiscal and Development Finance, MoF, and Mr. Yoichiro Kimata, Chief Representative of JICA Bhutan Office, in the presence of the Hon'ble Ministers, Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (MoIT).

The grant, amounting to **approximately 280 million JPY (about 156 million BTN)**, will enable the procurement of essential soil testing equipment for landslide risk analysis and prevention. This equipment will be utilized for the analysis of factors such as soil composition, moisture content, density, and shear strength, which will help to evaluate of risk of landslides, leading to strengthening inspection capabilities, contributing to human security and sustainable development through MoIT. The equipment includes Triaxial Compression Testing Machine, Electrical Exploration Equipment (Resistivity Method), Seismic Refraction Test (Geophysical test) etc. (More details are in the attached with images).

Record of Discussions for the Technical Cooperation Project for Capacity Development in Landslide Risk Reduction was signed during the program. The three year project will enhance the capacity of Department of Surface Transport (DoST) for landslide risk reduction. The project outputs will comprise of strengthening the following:

- Capacity for landslide topographic interpretation and assessment,
- Capacity for landslide investigation, observation and analysis
- Capacity for planning, designing, and implementing landslide countermeasures.

The equipment from the **Grant for Landslide Risk Reduction in Bhutan**, will highly complement the technical cooperation project, by supporting the activities across all the three project outputs of the TCP.



Equipment to be procured (Recipient Agency: MoIT)

Image	Equipment Name	Quantity	Purpose / Plan
	Triaxial Compression Testing Machine	3	To investigate shear strength. Enables high-precision acquisition of parameters necessary for ground stability analysis and design.
	Electrical Exploration Equipment (Resistivity Method)	2	To measure and analyze the electrical properties of subsurface materials for estimating underground structures. Useful for understanding subsurface conditions in ground improvement and foundation design.
	Seismic Refraction Test (Geophysical Test)	2	For geological and geotechnical surveys. Used to visualize underground structures in three dimensions. Helps predict ground bearing capacity and seismic behavior.
	CBR Tester	3	To evaluate the bearing capacity of roadbeds and subgrades.
	Proctor Compaction Testing Apparatus	3	To examine soil compaction characteristics.
	Consolidation Tester	3	To determine the amount and rate of compression when loading soil under conditions specified in consolidation tests—restricting lateral movement while allowing axial drainage.
	Electric Liquid Limit Tester	3	To investigate the consistency characteristics of soil forming the slip surface. Contributes to soil classification and determination of design parameters.
	Sieve Analyzer	3	To measure particle size distribution. Provides data necessary for soil classification and permeability evaluation.



	Complete Set of Wet Density Testers	3	To measure the mass per unit volume (1 cm^3) of soil.
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