

**Soka Gakkai Youth Donate Ambulance in Nepal**  
**Courtesy of SGI, OFFICE OF PEACE AFFAIRS**  
**Tokyo, July 25**

**Soka Gakkai's Youth Peace Conference raised funds**, consulted United Nations to determine most effective aid.

Responding to a critical need at National Mechi Zonal Hospital in the eastern Nepalese district of Jhapa, a youth contingent from the Soka Gakkai in Japan donated a fully equipped ambulance today.

The Japanese delegation, comprising members of the Soka Gakkai Youth Peace Conference, was dispatched on July 23 to participate in the event and survey conditions at area hospitals.

Proceeds to purchase the new vehicle were raised through a YPC fund-raiser, which has been held annually since 1973. Until the YPC donation, the hospital could not provide emergency ambulance services.

Among those attending the ceremony were Nepalese Health Minister Krishna Mainali, head of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Jhapa sub-office Peter Jonsen, and acting medical superintendent of the hospital Dr. Ganga Prased Goit.

The YPC made the presentation to "create better living conditions for all," said delegation chief Hiroki Nagano, alluding to the fact that both local citizens and refugees make use of the medical facilities.

The donation resulted from consultations between the YPC and the UNHCR in Nepal on what would be the most effective contribution to the refugees, who reside in area camps, as well as Nepalese citizens in neighboring communities.

The YPC dispatched its first medical fact-finding mission to eastern Nepal to survey conditions at refugee clinics and local hospitals in March 1996.

For its initial support phase, the YPC decided to provide medical supplies and instruments, including an electrocardiograph unit. It is also funding the employment of new medical personnel later this year at a nearby hospital in Damak, which is administered by the Japan-based Association of Medical Doctors in Asia, with the aim of boosting the overall capacity of area hospitals.

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