

COMPLETION REPORT

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【Subject of Research Project】

Promoting Business Innovation in Nepal: Exploring The Michi-No-Eki of Japan in Search of Adaptable Business Schemata

In the pursuit of innovative business models, Japan's Michi-no-eki have emerged exemplary for the revitalization of rural economies. The report aims to draw attention of all concerned in anticipation of the fact that the adapted model shall stimulate economic growth, empower local entrepreneurs, promote business innovation, and enhance tourism integration.

The model has the potential of stimulating economic growth by introducing Michi-no-eki, and creating economic opportunities at the local level. These stations can serve as hubs for economic activities, promoting trade, tourism, and entrepreneurship. The model's success in Japan demonstrates that these stations can significantly contribute to regional economies.

Michi-no-ekis are the platforms where local entrepreneurs shall be empowered to showcase local products, crafts, and culture. By integrating local artisans, farmers, and entrepreneurs, it can empower them to reach a wider audience. Through strategic partnerships, training programs, and marketing initiatives, the stations enhance the capacity of local entrepreneurs.

This empowerment shall promote business innovation by celebrating local uniqueness of indigenous knowledge, skills and resources (IKSaR). By fostering collaboration between local businesses, artists, and community members, it can drive creativity and innovation. These stations can become incubators for new ideas and ventures eventually leading to sustainable livelihoods, tourism integration, and socio-economic resilience.

In search of adaptable schemata for promoting business innovation in Nepal, this study made a series of exploratory visits to ten michi-no-ekis, one agricultural cooperative, and a division of MLIT in Shikohu area of Japan. The visits and facility observation witnessed distinct '*Japanese ways*' of doing business at local level. The distinct ways seem instrumental for economic growth, cultural exchange, and regional revitalization. The distinction and originality in doing business have been covered in the manuscripts of five mini cases and a journal article.

Business schemata in the michi-no-ekis are seen as a benchmark for local business success. In adaption of the model, Nepal can promote business innovation that not only contributes to economic growth but also supports the overall development of the rural area. Engaging local communities, embracing the tourism industry, and fostering collaborative efforts by the municipal corporations among the multiple stakeholders are key to achieving a grand success.

Feasibility analysis imperatives, consisting of the challenges and opportunities, have been discussed in consideration of adaptability of Michi-no-eki to the Nepalese context. A brief

adaptation schema in eastern, central, and western regions of the country has also been prepared, along with recommendations and action outline.

In conclusion, the report advocates for a concerted effort to adapt and implement the Michi-no-eki model, providing a clear pathway for stimulating local economies, enhancing tourism, and fostering a sense of community ownership and pride. Through such innovative schemata, Nepal can unlock the full potential of its entrepreneurial strength and opportunities.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)

Search for suitable conference/workshop is continuous.

Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)

Manuscripts for a journal article and five short/mini case studies are in progress. Submission to an appropriate journal/media/website shall be made after finalization of the manuscripts.

Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)

Not planned.