



Project:

A formal agreement has been signed and implementation has begun among Kirtipur Municipality, Tribhuvan University, Ishizaka Inc. (Japan), and Idea Studio Nepal to study and establish a comprehensive Zero Waste Design Plant within Kirtipur Municipality.



Pictured (left to right):

Dr. Tshering Lama, The Executive Chairperson and Co-founder, ISN

Krishna Man Dangol, Mayor of Kirtipur Municipality

Yumiko Endo, Executive Officer, President's Office, Overseas New Business and Global HR, Ishizaka Inc.

Since 2024, Ishizaka Inc. and Idea Studio Nepal have been collaborating under a partnership agreement to advance Zero Waste Design waste management initiatives in Nepal. In 2025, Tribhuvan University and Kirtipur Municipality also formally joined the partnership.

Under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, several key components of the project have already been completed. To further strengthen and energize this Zero Waste Design initiative, the project was selected in 2025 under the "FY 2025 Japan's Circular Economy Business Promotion Overseas" program by the 3R Research Foundation (a Public Interest Incorporated Foundation). With the support of the 3R Foundation, the project has completed its feasibility study and chemical composition analysis of waste materials. Additionally, an expert exchange program between Tribhuvan University and Ishizaka Inc. has been launched under this same initiative.



Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Signing Ceremony between Tribhuvan University, Idea Studio Nepal, and Ishizaka Inc.



At the EEP workshop held at Ishizaka Japan (January 2026)

Idea Studio Nepal

1. Social and Green Business

Since its founding, Idea Studio Nepal has been dedicated to creating and promoting businesses that generate positive social and environmental impact, thereby contributing to the development of entrepreneurship in Nepal. In partnership with the Government of Nepal, the organization has been engaged in policy-level work to promote inclusivity and ensure opportunities for entrepreneurs. It has also partnered with Nepalese universities to foster a research- and knowledge-based economy.

Given that Nepal urgently requires globally recognized expertise, particularly in environmentally sustainable businesses, Idea Studio Nepal has initiated and is implementing this project in collaboration with Ishizaka Inc., a world-renowned company in the field.

2. Zero Waste Design Lab

To advance knowledge and innovation, the Zero Waste Design Plant will continuously conduct research and facilitate expert exchange programs through various schools and faculties of Tribhuvan University. The project will also support the integrated development of human resources and academic curricula. The Zero Waste Design Plant will thus be established as an educational research laboratory for the university.

3. A Green and Clean City

The primary priority of this project initiative is to transform Kirtipur Municipality into a "Green and Clean City." As a special initiative of Kirtipur, this plant and project is to be established within the municipality. Accordingly, the municipality plays a vital role in deepening policies, plans, and collaborative structures, and in strengthening inter-municipal partnerships. All partners share the goal of establishing Kirtipur as Nepal's first Zero Waste Design Municipality.

To achieve the vision of "Social and Environment-Friendly Business," the following key activities are being carried out to establish both a Zero Waste Design Research Lab and a Clean and Green City:

a. Improving Household Waste Segregation and Technical Certification to Produce Solid Fuel (RPF): Targeting Kirtipur residents, the project aims to raise public awareness on waste separation and proper waste handling through "practical environmental education," in partnership with the municipality and universities, and to increase door-to-door waste segregation rates. Properly segregated waste will be converted into RPF (Refuse-Derived Fuel). This high-quality fuel can be utilized as a substitute energy source, with the additional goal of reducing Nepal's dependence on imported coal.

b. Developing Circular Economy Entrepreneurs and Establishing a Global Leadership Model: This project aims to create models of green and environmentally friendly business for both Nepal and Japan, positioning itself as a global leader and example. Through the partnership between the two countries, Nepali professionals will receive technical training and employment opportunities in Japan, while knowledge and experience will be transferred back to Nepal to nurture new entrepreneurs and support the growth of environmentally friendly businesses.

c. Creating Green and Eco-Friendly Employment and Initiating Sustainable Practices: The plant and project to be established in Kirtipur Municipality will create local job opportunities for residents and foster sustainable green employment. Additionally, it is planned to serve as a model workplace for engineers, business/management graduates, and others from Nepalese universities who wish to establish and operate green businesses (Green Jobs/Businesses).

In summary, this Zero Waste Design Project represents a tripartite collaborative effort, Government (Policy), Academic Institution (Knowledge), and Industry (Practice), modeled through Ishizaka Inc. and Idea Studio Nepal's Expert Exchange Program (EEP), and is aimed at serving as a sustainable development model. The project is being operated as a Joint Venture between Nepal and Japan. By integrating Nepal's natural environment and cultural heritage, local community-based networks, and university research and knowledge, the initiative is firmly committed to contributing to the sustainable development of the concept of "transforming waste into treasure".