

Nepal National Day

Strong, close relationship built on goodwill, cooperation

PRATIVA RANA
AMBASSADOR OF NEPAL



The Constituent Assembly of Nepal promulgated the Constitution of Nepal on Sept. 20, 2015. For the first time, in the history of Nepal inclusive, the forward-looking Democratic Federal

Republic Constitution of Nepal was promulgated by the Constituent Assembly. Since then, to mark the auspicious and historic occasion, Nepal has celebrated its National Day.

Today, I am honored to express, on behalf of people and government of Nepal, sincere gratitude and warm greetings to Their Majesties the Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, H.E. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, as well as the friendly people of Japan, for their most valuable contributions in further enhancing the excellent ties of friendship and cooperation that so happily exist between Nepal and Japan.

In accordance with the new constitution, local elections, after a long interval of about two decades, have been already held successfully and enthusiastically with wide participation of the people. The elections have an important role to institutionalize the democracy and have been instrumental in maintaining the peace, stability and security of the country. After the implementation of the constitution, Nepal has geared all its efforts toward economic development and prosperity for the people of Nepal. Last year's

progressive economic growth has shown its silver lining as a leap forward in the economic development efforts of the country.

Ever since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Nepal and Japan both countries have been enjoying excellent bilateral relations for more than six decades. Our relations are based on goodwill, understanding and mutual cooperation. Nepal and Japan shared common values and culture based on teaching of Lord Buddha, who was born in Lumbini. Japan is a longstanding friend and trusted development partner of Nepal and our cooperative relations are in diverse fields. The cooperation provided by Japan to the socioeconomic development of Nepal is praiseworthy. The major areas covered are infrastructure development, human resources development, health care, hydro-power, forestry, the environment and many others. Japanese assistance is channeled as grant aid, technical assistance, loans and multilateral aid.

For the first time in Nepal, the Naghdunga Road Tunnel project is under the construction with the assistance of the government of Japan. This is a landmark in cooperation of its kind, and will pave the way to exiting via tunnel the capital city toward the western part of Nepal.

We highly appreciate the generous support extended by the government of Japan for the post-earthquake reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts of Nepal as well. Post-quake reconstruction and rehabilitation work has been quickly carried out in Nepal. People in earthquake-affected areas are living their normal lives as before the devastating earthquake. Most of the heritage sites and touristic places have been already reconstructed.

Growing numbers of Nepalese diaspora in Japan have been further helpful to boost our people-to-people relations between our countries. More than 70,000 Nepalese in Japan have been contributing as a bridge to further strengthen these relations. The growth in the number of Nepalese diaspora in Japan is one of the most prominent features of our bilateral relations.

Likewise, an increasing number of Japanese companies investing in Nepal has further helped to consolidate and expand our relations. Japanese volunteers working in Nepal have added to further embolden our relations at the people-to-people level as well.

Nepal is situated in between India and China. Nepal's relations with both neighboring countries are excellent. Both have been providing tax exemptions and other facilities for most of the exportable items of Nepal. Investment in Nepal can be the best place for the companies eyeing to explore their market by building a bridge between the two Asian giants as well.

The government of Nepal has recently introduced investment-friendly policies to attract foreign direct investment. There are tremendous potentials for investment in Nepal. The government of Nepal invites the Japanese private sector to invest in areas such as infrastructure, hydropower, tourism and agriculture, as well as information technology, in Nepal. Unskilled to skilled manpower in all sectors, including information communications technology (ICT), is available at reasonable wages.

The government of Nepal has been providing many facilities for foreign direct investment. The repatriation process has been made easier. Tax exemptions and a smooth supply of electricity are ensured for those investors. Our One Window policy was adopted to facilitate foreign direct investment. Special economic zones have also been established in different areas of Nepal.

To date around 200 Japanese companies and industry investments have been approved. Japanese direct investment is in various sectors, including agro-based industry, hospitality, ICT, hydropower and transportation. Japanese private investment is increasing every year. Japanese investors are happy to invest in the naturally beautiful land of Lord Buddha.

It is well known that Nepal enjoys a bounty of nature, with a wide variety of climatic conditions and rich wildlife, flora, fauna and the majestic Himalayas. In addition to being the birth place of Lord Buddha, Nepal boasts eight cultural UNESCO World Heritage sites and two natural World Heritage sites, as well as renowned trails for mountain hiking and expeditions that lure tourists from around the world. Nepal is the land of eight of the world's-tallest peaks, including the world's-highest peak Mount Everest. Junko Tabei was the first woman to scale Mount Everest on May 16, 1975. In recent years, the number of summiters from Japan has increased, while many other Japanese people enjoy expeditions in Nepal.

It has been just a few months since assuming my duty as ambassador to Japan. As the first female ambassador of Nepal to Japan,



Nepal is famous for trekking. EMBASSY OF NEPAL

I am fully committed to further expand, consolidate and enhance the bilateral ties between the two countries during my tenure in our longtime friend, Japan.

On this joyful occasion, I would like to

greet all the readers of The Japan Times and invite them to enjoy the breathtaking natural beauty of Nepal and at the same time to visit Lumbini, the sacred birth place of Lord Buddha, as well.



Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha EMBASSY OF NEPAL

Congratulations to the People of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal on the Anniversary of Their National Day



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Wishing you all the best on the occasion of the National Day of Nepal

TBI Group CHAIRMAN
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