

Bilateral ties forged through goodwill

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AMBASSADOR OF NEPAL TO JAPAN



On this National Day of Nepal, I would like to extend my warmest greetings and best wishes to Their Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, Japan's government and people for their valuable

contributions to making Nepal-Japan relations stronger, broader and deeper. I would also like to send my warm greetings and best wishes to all fellow Nepali nationals in Japan. Their contribution to further fortify relations between our countries is commendable.

After the promulgation of a new constitution in 2015, Nepal has stepped forward with full determination on the path of

peace, progress and prosperity. Over the years, Nepal has registered remarkable progress in the field of human and social development. We have geared up all our efforts to attain the national aspiration of "Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali."

We have adopted an approach to ensure the participation of all stakeholders — the private sector, cooperatives and civil society — in development processes. These efforts are showing some tangible results through progress in poverty reduction, infrastructure development and greater inclusivity in the social, political and economic sectors.

The outbreak of coronavirus has created huge obstacles in our development endeavors. It has not only affected the health sector. The impact on fields such as trade, tourism, agriculture, education and infrastructure development, among others, is heavy. Nepal's government is working on protecting the lives of the poor and vulnerable during this painful time. Nepal has tried its best to contain the spread of coro-

navirus and limit casualties.

It gives me immense pleasure that Japan has continued to be a reliable partner of Nepal in its journey to socioeconomic development. We have also received generous support from Japan during difficult times such as in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake of 2015. The government and the people of Nepal cherish such generosity as a pure gesture of true friendship.

Our relationship has deep roots across diverse fields. High-level visits have helped develop bilateral relations in accordance with the tide of changing times. I fondly recall the visit of the Rt. Hon. President of Nepal Bidya Devi Bhandari to Japan in October to attend the emperor's enthronement ceremony. During the visit, she had a fruitful meeting with H.E. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

An immense degree of goodwill governs relations between our two countries. Japan is a most favored destination for Nepali students, professionals and other workers, with the number of Nepali nationals in



Mount Machhapuchhure reflected in the tranquil waters of Lake Phewa, one of Nepal's most popular tourist sites. EMBASSY OF NEPAL

Japan growing rapidly in recent years. This number is certain to grow with the implementation of the memorandum of cooperation regarding the recruitment of specified skilled workers. I would like to thank the government of Japan for taking care of Nepali nationals during the coronavirus pandemic. I am confident that the future of Nepal-Japan relations holds strong potential for greater cooperation.

With these words, I would like to extend my best wishes to all the readers for their good health and happiness.

This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.