

Nepal National Day Special

Long-lasting relationship strengthens sustainability

PRATIVA RANA
AMBASSADOR OF NEPAL



On the auspicious occasion of the National Day of Nepal, I am honored to express, on behalf of the people and government of Nepal, sincere gratitude and warm greetings to their

Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, H.E. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, as well as to the government and 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.

The historical Constitution of Nepal was promulgated by the Constituent Assembly of Nepal on Sept. 20, 2015, in order to fulfill the aspirations for sustainable peace, good governance, development and prosperity through the federal, democratic and republic



President of Nepal, the Right Honorable Bidya Devi Bhandari

system of governance. It has also safeguarded the democratic system of governance, civil liberties, fundamental rights, adult franchise, periodic elections, freedom of the press and the independent, impartial and competent judiciary system to build a prosperous nation.



Prime Minister of Nepal, the Right Honorable K.P. Sharma Oli

Since then, Nepal has been celebrating its national day on this day.

With a two-thirds majority, the Nepal Communist Party's government has been formed in Nepal, after the widely participated and successful general election held in 2017. We

highly appreciate the government of Japan for sending high-level observers led by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs H.E. Iwao Horii in the 2017 general elections.

The government is moving forward with the aim to make "Prosperous Nepal and Happy Nepali." To achieve this aim, Nepal has geared all of its efforts toward economic development and prosperity for the people of Nepal.

Ever since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Nepal and Japan, both countries have enjoyed excellent bilateral relations for more than six decades. Our relations are based on goodwill, understanding and mutual cooperation. Nepal and Japan have also shared common values and culture based on the teachings of Lord Buddha, who was born in Lumbini, Nepal. To further enhance and strengthen our bilateral relations, high-level visits from both countries will be very significant and we look forward to such visits taking place in the near future.

Japan is a long-standing friend and major development partner of Nepal and our cooperative relations are in diverse fields. The cooperation provided by Japan for the socioeconomic development of Nepal is praiseworthy. The major areas covered are infrastructure development, human resources development, health care, hydropower, forestry, the environment and many more.

Nepal is a peaceful country with a harmonious society and resilient people. People of earthquake-affected areas are living their normal lives. Most of the UNESCO World Heritage sites and tourist destinations have been reconstructed, while others are in the process of completion.

Growing numbers of the Nepalese diaspora in Japan have been contributing, as a bridge, to further strengthen our people-to-people relations.

I would like to take this opportunity to greet our Nepalese people on this important occasion and call upon them to make the best possible contributions to the



Eternal Peace Flame in Lumbini, Nepal. LUMBINI HOTEL KASAI

development of Japan and Nepal.

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

The government of Nepal has introduced investment-friendly policies to attract foreign direct investment. There are tremendous potentialities of investment in infrastructure, hydropower, tourism, mining and agriculture, as well as information technology sectors in Nepal. Skilled to unskilled manpower in all sectors, including information communication technology, are available at low wages. The one-window policy has been adopted to facilitate foreign direct investors. Special Economic Zones (SEZ) are established in different areas in

Nepal, where companies and industries established in SEZ are entitled to more facilities and incentives than in other areas.

In recent years, the numbers of trekkers and summiters from Japan have increased. Nepal has designated the year 2020 as "Visit Nepal Year." With direct flights between Nepal and Japan, which will commence in the near future, visitors can enjoy an affordable and comfortable travel experience to Nepal.

On this joyful occasion, I would also like to greet all of the readers of The Japan Times and invite them to enjoy the breathtaking, historical and natural beauty of Nepal.

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

Working toward solid development and further deepening relations

TOSHIHIRO NIKAI
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-NEPAL PARLIAMENTARIANS' FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE



On behalf of the Japan-Nepal Parliamentarians' Friendship League, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to the government and people of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal on the occasion of their National Day, Sept. 20 is the day to mark the promulgation of Nepal's new constitution — this year, we celebrate its third anniversary. A series of

elections were held successfully last year and the new government was formed in February to shift to the three-tiered administrative system of dividing Nepal into provinces, districts and municipalities as stipulated in the new constitution of September 2015. As Japan has been supporting Nepal to consolidate democracy for many years, we express our respect to Nepal for making solid progress toward establishing a democratic system of governance.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1956, Japan and Nepal have built friendly bilateral relations in every area, including the economy, culture and tourism. Exchanges of people are becoming more and more frequent, with over 22,000 Japanese tourists going to Nepal and more than 33,000 Nepalese tourists visiting Japan last year. As a result of more active people-to-people exchanges, this June, Japan and Nepal reached an agreement concerning direct flights between Narita and Kathmandu, which will further strengthen our friendship. For our part, we, the members of the Parliamentarians' Friendship League, will continue to make every effort to increase mutual exchanges and understanding between Japan and Nepal.

In closing, I would like to extend my best wishes for the continuing success and prosperity of all the people of Nepal.

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



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