

Nepal National Day Special

Close friendship continues to deepen

PRATIVA RANA
AMBASSADOR OF NEPAL



Today, the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal happily celebrates its National Day after the promulgation of the Constitution of Nepal. The Constituent Assembly of Nepal promulgated

the constitution on Sept. 20, 2015.

On this auspicious occasion, on behalf of the government and the people of Nepal, I would like to express sincere gratitude and warm greetings to Their Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, as well as the friendly people of Japan for their most valuable contributions in further expanding and enhancing the excellent ties of friendship and cooperation that so happily exist between Nepal and Japan. Nepal and Japan have been enjoying excellent bilateral relations ever since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1956.

Nepal and Japan share many commonalities in terms of religion and cultural values that have been playing important roles

in bringing the peoples of our countries closer.

About 90,000 Nepalese living in Japan have been contributing, as a bridge, to further strengthen our people-to-people relations. I take this opportunity to greet our people on this important occasion and call upon them to make the best possible contributions to the development of Japan and Nepal.

Nepal-Japan bilateral relations are marked by mutual trust, goodwill and understanding between our countries.

High-level visits

Exchanges of high-level visits have been taking place in recent years between our countries. These visits have made a significant contribution to further deepen and expand the areas of cooperation in new sectors.

High-level exchange visits by Foreign Minister of Nepal Pradeep Kumar Gyawali to Japan in 2018 and former Foreign Minister of Japan Taro Kono's visit to Nepal this year also heightened bilateral relations between our countries. Regular exchanges of visits from ministers and parliamentarians between our countries have been making our bilateral relations further stronger by the day.

Economy and investment

Japan, being one of the major donor partners in the economic development efforts of Nepal from the very beginning of bilateral relations, has been engaged in various infrastructure and technology transfer projects under the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Nepal has adopted foreign investment-friendly policies to attract foreign investors to Nepal. The government has prioritized some profitable areas for foreign investors such as the infrastructure, hydro power, tourism and agriculture sectors. Nepal is providing much support for foreign investors, and industries established in designated economic zones are entitled to various benefits.

Focus on development

The government of Nepal, having achieved political stability after many years, is focusing on economic development with the goal of "Prosperous Nepal and Happy Nepali." From the very beginning of our bilateral relations, Japan has been providing economic cooperation through the transfer of technology, infrastructure development through grants, aid and overseas development assistance. Japan's cooperation in the eco-

nomie development of Nepal has been praiseworthy.

Recently, we have been successful in expanding our bilateral relations further with the reestablishment, after 12 years, of a direct link with Japan via Nepal Airlines from Aug. 29. We would like to express our gratitude for the cooperation of the government of Japan in this regard as well.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the Japanese government for including Nepal in its ongoing plans to update visa categories for foreign workers, under which many Nepalese of different skills can be employed with assured job guarantees in 14 sectors, while also helping to fulfill the labor shortage in Japan.

On this joyful occasion, I would also like to greet all the readers of The Japan Times and invite them to enjoy the breathtaking natural beauty of Nepal by visiting the sacred birthplace of Lord Buddha, Lumbini, and other attractive places in the country, as next year has been dubbed Visit Nepal 2020.

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

Progress in boosting mutual exchanges, understanding

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 Fed-

eral 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 and this year we celebrate its fourth anniversary. A series of elections were held successfully two years ago in provinces, districts and municipalities and the new government was formed in February 2018. As Japan has been supporting Nepal to consolidate its democracy for many years, we express our respect to Nepal for making solid progress toward establishing a democratic system of governance.

I had the honor to talk with President of Nepal Bidya Devi Bhandari in China in April. As I promised to Bhandari, the female parliamentarian's delegation headed by Tomomi Inada visited Nepal in August to celebrate the resumption of direct flights between Kansai International Airport and Kathmandu for the first time in 12 years. I am also very excited to hear direct flights between Narita and Kathmandu are expected to be launched in the future. As 2020 is the year of Visit Nepal, I sincerely look forward to seeing more active people-to-people exchanges through the resumption of direct flights and Visit Nepal as an opportunity for Japanese people's renewed interest in Nepal. 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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Wish you all the best on your National Day

TBI Group CHAIRMAN
BHABAN BHATTA

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

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Congratulations
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the Federal Democratic
Republic of Nepal
on the Occasion of
Their National Day

The Honorary Consulate General of
Nepal in Osaka

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