

# **Nepal-Japan Relations (1956-2013)**

A Dissertation  
Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Tribhuvan University in Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for the Degree of  
**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**  
in  
**POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**By**  
**Suresh Malla**  
Ph.D. Reg. No.: 29/2057  
Tribhuvan University  
Kathmandu, Nepal  
2014

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**Tribhuvan University**

**Kathmandu, Nepal**

**2014**





**Ph.D.**

**Nepal-Japan Relations (1956-2013)**

**Suresh Malla**

**2014**

Date:- 2071-10-04

To,  
The Dean  
Faculty of Humanities and Social Science  
T.U., Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Subject:- **Submission of Corrected Copy of Dissertation.**

Dear Sir,

I, herewith, have attached the corrected version of my dissertation on **Nepal-Japan Relation (1956-2013)**. The texts which have been corrected, as suggested by internal supervisor, have been made bold. Please, accept the corrected version of my dissertation.

Sincerely yours,

---

**Suresh Malla**

**Corrections made, as directed by the internal examiner, in his report and marked bold in dissertation**

1. **In point no. 1**, the nature of the research work has been outlined as humanistic cum retrospective and descriptive. As per the suggestion, it has also been made analytical.
2. **Critical appreciation of the dissertation:** As advised by the internal examiner the format of the first chapter has been made scientific and standard order.
  - 2.1 **Introduction:** (A) As advised by the internal examiner, coherence in the contents has been established, overlapping removed; and footnotes are cited.
  - 2.2 **Statement of the problems:** As advised by the internal examiner, the research questions have been reduced to four only.
  - 2.2 **Objectives of the study:** As suggested by the internal examiner, objectives have also been reduced to three making them compatible with the statement of problems, stated above.
2. **Hypothesis (if any):** As per the direction of the internal supervisor, hypotheses have been added in the new draft.
- 2.4 **Research methodology:** As suggested by the internal examiner, has been scientifically structured and methods, sources of data and methods of interpretation of data are also clearly outlined.
- 2.5 **Rationale of the study:** As directed by the internal examiner, the significance of the study has been restructured/re-written keeping in view the importance of the study/research in the present context and also for the future researchers.
- 2.7 **Review of literature:** As directed by the internal examiner, the review of literature in 1.7 has been erased and kept in separate Chapter II.
- 2.8 **Limitations of the study:** No comments mentioned.
- 2.9 **Organization of the study:** As directed by the internal examiner, the chapters have been merged and coherence has been maintained.

As directed by the internal examiner, the findings have been placed before summary and conclusions.

**Chapter-II**

**Chapter I:** As directed by the internal examiner, sub-topics have been removed from review of literature chapter.

**Chapter II:** As directed by the internal examiner, some international relations theories including realism, construction/liberalism and bilateral diplomacy have been cited including the books and articles. As directed by the internal examiner, related materials to Nepal-Japan have been cited.

**Chapter III:** As directed by the internal examiner, comments, observations and remarks have been made in every chapter.

**Chapter III:** As directed by the internal examiner, changes in Nepal-Japan Political Relations have been made in bilateral relations

As directed by the internal examiner, foundation of bilateral relations has been elaborated.

As directed by the internal examiner, analytical approach has been adopted to explain the information.

As directed by the internal examiner, the post-1990 Nepal-Japan relations have been elaborated.

As directed by the internal examiner, conclusion of each chapter has been deleted.

As directed by the internal examiner, the post monarchy or post-2006 Nepal-Japan relation have been more focused and has been critically analyzed.

#### **Chapter IV: Nepal-Japan Economic Relations**

As directed by the internal examiner, too many subtopics have been deleted or reduced to few and critical analysis has been made.

As directed by the internal examiner, attempts have been made to maintain the coherence in the entire text.

**Chapter V: Nepal Japan Socio-cultural and Religious Relations:** As directed by the internal examiner the religious relations between the two countries have been revised. Attempts have been made to give the impression, as outlined by internal examiner that Japan is a secular country and religion is not the basis of relationship between the two countries- Nepal and Japan.

As directed by the internal examiner, the subjects like introduction, youth and cultural grants have been merged into economic relationship.

**Chapter VI:** As directed by the internal examiner, Nepal-Japan educational relations have been merged into Japan socio-cultural relation chapter (pp. 119-127).

Japanese education, as directed by the internal examiner has been made separate subheading.

Human development scholarship, as directed by the internal examiner, has been made separate subheading to include other subheadings including Nepalese students in Japan, grant to school construction, MEXT scholarship and Japanese languages.

**Chapter VII:** As directed by the internal examiner, post-2006 Nepal-Japan relations have been clearly stated and elaborated.

As directed by the internal examiner, the overlapping has been removed from the text.

As directed by the internal supervise examiner, paragraphs have been summarized to few paragraphs.

As directed by the internal examiner (p. 135), research findings have been placed before summary and conclusion.

As directed by the internal examiner (p. 137), the bullets have been removed from the contents.

As directed by the internal examiner (pp. 139-145), they are not needed so, they have been removed.



**Appendix (pp. 151-178)**

As directed by the internal examiner, unnecessary and irrelevant appendices have been removed from the text.

**References**

As directed by the internal examiner, references have been placed before appendices.

Footnotes have been used.

As outlined in the last three suggestions, the entire format of the dissertation has been restructured and organized.

As outlined in the last three suggestions, literature review has been reorganized so as to make it methodologically sound and to provide concrete results and findings.

In order to make the dissertation scientific methodologically and theoretically sound, total format has been restructured.

Date:- 2071-12-08

To,  
The Dean  
Faculty of Humanities and Social Science  
T.U., Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Subject:- **Submission of Pre-viva of the Dissertation.**

Dear Sir,

I have herewith submitted the pre-viva of my dissertation entitled **Nepal-Japan Relation (1956-2013)**. The corrections made in the dissertation, as outlined by the internal evaluator second time, have been highlight and made bold.

Sincerely yours,

---

**Suresh Malla**

**Corrections made in the dissertation as directed by the internal supervisor for the second time**

1. **Corrections in Chapter 1: Introduction.** As directed by the internal examiner second time, corrections have been made in chapter 1.2. Similarly, in point no. 1.5, significance of the study has been added erasing the rational of the study.
2. In 1.2 as advised by the internal supervisor, one exploratory question has been formulation.
3. **Hypothesis in 1.4** has been removed from the text as directed by the internal examiner second time.
4. **In 1.6 methodology portion,** descriptive and analytical designs have been added.
5. **As directed by the internal supervisor second time,** the chapter heading in Chapter IV has been shortened and the overlapping has been removed.
6. **The Chapter IV,** as directed by the internal supervisor, has been downsized and the obscure has been removed.
7. **As directed by the internal supervisor second time,** too many sub-chapters in chapter-V have been downsized.
8. **The chapter VI,** the overlapping words/parts of the chapter heading have been removed and the too-many sub-chapters have been removed.
9. **In Chapter VII,** Unnecessary recommendations, as directed by the internal supervisor, have been removed. As too many recommendations are not needed for academic research, they have been reduced.
10. According to the directions given by the internal supervisor second time, the **whole contents** have been corrected, revised and downsized.

Date:- 2072-01-02

To,  
The Dean  
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences  
T.U., Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Subject:- **Submission of Corrected Copy of Ph.D. Dissertation.**

Dear Sir,

I have herewith submitted the final corrected copy of my Ph.D. Dissertation entitled **Nepal-Japan Relation (1956-2013)** for final evaluation.

Sincerely yours,

---

**Suresh Malla**

## **Correction Made in the Dissertation as Directed by External Examiner**

### **3.1 Specific Suggestions to Improve the Dissertation**

1. As directed by internal examiner, Unified Marxist Leninist has been made in abbreviation.
2. As directed, sentences have been made concrete and solid.
3. As directed, conceptual theory of bilateral relation has been added and irrelevant theories have been deleted.
4. As advised, statement of the problems has been written properly.
5. As directed, the terms like identify and explore have been replaced by the terms to analyze in 1.3 objectives.
6. As directed, cultural relations have been used.
7. As directed, unnecessary listing of sources have been erased.
8. As mentioned in the External Examiner's Report, the long quotations in p. 8 has been paraphrased.
9. As directed, more books and articles on Nepal-Japan relations have been reviewed.
10. As directed, corrections have been made in p. 19.
11. As directed, irrelevant paragraphs have been erased.
12. As directed, comparative approach has been adopted in Chapter III.
13. In p. 42, correction has been made in first para.
14. Ibid, has been erased in intext citation.
15. In pp. 43-44, clauses have been replaced by articles.
16. In pp. 52-53, sources have been added.
17. In p. 55, long quotations have been reduced.
18. As directed, Chapter IV has been analyzed.
19. As directed, changes have been made in p. 112.

20. As directed by external examiner, changes have been made in p. 103.
21. As advised, title of Chapter VI has been changed as Nepal-Japan cultural relations.
22. Changes have been made in summary and conclusion part.
23. As directed, references have been placed before appendixes.

Besides listed in the External Examiner's report, corrections have been made in 1.4 and some terms like "beautifully" in literature review have been erased.

Date:- 2072-01-28

To,  
The Dean  
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences  
T.U., Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Subject:- **Submission of Final Copy of Dissertation.**

Dear Sir,

I have herewith submitted the final copy of my Ph.D. Dissertation entitled **Nepal-Japan Relations (1956-2013)** incorporating all the suggestions given by the respective External Examiner and the members of the Research Committee.

Sincerely yours,

---

**Suresh Malla**

## **Correction Made as Directed by External Examiner and Members of Research Committee**

1. Regarding the comments made by external examiner, it has been clearly stated in p. 4 that this research would help the policy makers to formulate new policies in Nepal-Japan bilateral relations in future.
2. Regarding Prof. Dr. R.C. Paudyal's comments, research questions, objectives and methodology have been clearly outlined including the mentioning of new knowledge added in this research.
3. Regarding Prof. Dr. Krishna Chandra's comments, proper analysis has been made in the research and APA method has also been used.
4. Regarding Prof. Dr. Sandhya Basnet's comments, research questions have been placed before objectives.
5. According to Prof. Dr. R.P. Gyawali's comments, corrections have been made.
6. According to the suggestions given by Prof. Dr. Daya Ram Shrestha, corrections have been made in different places in the format of the research including erasing indent in p. 13.
7. References have also been placed after appendix. First and middle names in the references have also been changed.



## LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

We certify that **Mr. Suresh Malla** has made necessary corrections in his dissertation entitled **Nepal-Japan Relations (1956-2013)** as outlined by external examiner. We hereby recommend this corrected version of the dissertation for final acceptance by the Research Committee of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University, in fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of **DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY** in **POLITICAL SCIENCE**.

**Dissertation Committee**

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**Prof. Dr. Panna Kaji Amatya**  
Supervisor

---

**Prof. Dr. Meena Vaidya Malla**  
Expert  
Head of Central Dept. of Pol. Science  
Tribhuvan University

Date: 2072-01-28

## **APPROVAL LETTER**

This dissertation entitled **Nepal-Japan Relations (1956-2013)** was submitted by **Mr. Suresh Malla** for final examination to the Research Committee of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University, in fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY in POLITICAL SCIENCE. I, hereby, certify that the Research Committee of the Faculty has found this dissertation satisfactory in scope and quality and has, therefore, accepted it for the degree.

Prof. Chinta Mani Pokharel, PhD

Dean and Chairman

Research Committee

Date:

## DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this Ph.D. dissertation entitled **Nepal-Japan Relations (1956-2013)** submitted to the Office of the Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University, is an entirely original work prepared under the supervision of my supervisor. I have made due acknowledgement to all ideas and information borrowed from different sources in the course of writing this dissertation. The results presented in this dissertation have not been presented or submitted anywhere else for the award of any degree or for any other reasons. No part of the content of this dissertation has ever been published in any form before. I shall be solely responsible if any evidence is found against my declaration.

---

**Suresh Malla**

Date: 2071-10-04

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Academic research is an individual's intellectual task. It is a search of knowledge and a means of getting a right path of wisdom. In this honour of time, I owe a lot to several key informants, intellectuals, individuals and inspiring personnel for their inspiration to make this research possible. And, it gives me immense pleasure to remember all the researchers, scholars and experts for their discussion and warm suggestions to find a gateway to the new career through this research.

I am highly grateful to Prof. Guna Nidhi Neupane, Rector of Tribhuvan University, Prof. Dr. Chintamani Poharel, Dean of Humanities, Prof. Dr. Raj Kumar Poharel, Assistant Dean of Humanities, Prof. Sita Ram Bista, Advisor of Tribhuvan University, for their continuous inspiration, valuable suggestions and remarkable assistance. I extend my hearty thanks to my friendly brother Er. Sakal Dev Sutihar for his countless suggestions and motivating support for accomplishing this research study.

I would like to express my thankfulness to my respected teachers who brought me up to here and always loved and guided me for my upliftment in the journey of learning. Specially, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Prof. Dr. Panna Kaji Amatya for his invaluable guidance, constructive suggestions, cooperation and constant encouragement. I am grateful to my supervisor Prof. Dr. Meena Malla, Head of the Department of Political Science, Tribhuvan University, for her valuable suggestions and guidance. I have no words to express my sincere gratitude to her.

I would like to express my sincere regards and respects to my parents who brought me at this wonderful and terrible world in which I had to struggle to survive. On the onset of this dissertation, I am indebted to Prof. B.C. Malla who taught me alphabet in the beginning of my kinderhood, brought me in this position and what I am now is all his tireless efforts. My sincere gratitude goes to General Narayan

Chandra Malla and Dr. Dibvya Shree Malla for leading the journey of my life. Their witty inspiration is lightening me to lead my life.

Similarly, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to my beloved wife Ms. Jagadeshwori Malla, loving daughters Miss Sujata Malla, Dr. Sanjita Malla and Er. Susmita Malla for their kind support, constructive suggestions, cooperation and constant encouragement during the study. I am profoundly indebted to my brothers Mr. Indra Malla, Dr. C.V. Malla and Mr. Bijaya Malla for their inspiration and support. I owe a debt of profound gratitude to my sister-in-laws Ms. Madhavi Malla, Ms. Deepa Malla and Ms. Sarada Malla for their valuable time to run the family with domestic works as well as encouragement and support to complete this study.

I must thank my family members and well wishers Mr. Arun Malla, Mr. Prem Malla and Mr. Mahesh Malla for their inspiration, suggestions and guidance throughout my life. I am pleased to them for their valuable assistance in my academic works. I am equally indebted to my senior friends honorable ministers Ram Krishana Tamrakar and Bal Dev Majhgainya for their inspiration, kind support and encouragement. My colleague Mr. Bhim Udash deserves thanks for his kind support. I appreciate suggestions and supports of His Excellency Masashi Ogawa, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Nepal.

I am very much thankful to my nephews Mr. Chitra Malla, Mr. Janak Malla, Principal of Marigold English Boarding, and Er. Surat Malla, brother Mr. Surat Bahadur Malla, and my well wishers Mr. Gunakar Prasad Joshi, Mr. Jagat Singh, Mr. Janak Dhami, Mr. Dhanser Bahadur Singh, Mr. Ganesh Bohara, Mr. Ram Malla, Mr. Udaya Sing Bohara, Mr. Ganesh Bohara, Mr. Indra Bahadur Malla, Mr. Raghu Nath Joshi, Mr. Chet Raj Bajal, Mr. Mohan Khati, Prof. Ram Prasad Joshi, Mr. Ram Khati, Mr. Bishnu Bhakta Upadhaya, Mr. Narayan Hamal, Mr. Bishnu Bhakta Upadhaya and Mr. Ambar Mahar for their kind collaboration and precious propositions.

I acknowledge the inspiration and blessing of all the people who wished me and wish my betterment from all over the world. I am always grateful to them by which I am here for their all blessings.

At the same time, I could not forget to thank Mr. Sakun Kumar Joshi who is a part of me as my loving son, and I thank him for his scholarly support. I extend my countless thanks to Mr. Shyam Shrestha who always supported me in my all events. Similarly, I wish to thank Mr. Kushu Ghale for his kind support.

Last but not the least, I duly acknowledge all the authors and researchers whose ideas are borrowed and cited in this study.

- **Suresh Malla**

## **ABSTRACT**

Nepal-Japan relations are significant or have rationale for the study in the contemporary foreign policy of Nepal because of Japan's increasing role in the economic development of Nepal. As Japan is the major donor country and Nepal's relations with Japan become one of the important aspects of Nepalese economic foreign policy. The Japanese aid to Nepal has no political interest attached to it. The lack of adequate materials in this direction further inspired this researcher to make research on such an important topic in the present context. This research, thus, would make original contribution in the history of bilateral relations between Nepal and Japan. This research has intended to achieve the objectives of analyzing Nepal exists political, economic, socio-cultural, and educational relations with Japan during the period. In order to achieve the above stated objectives, a number of research problems/questions have been formulated, which include questions like these:

What is the current status of existing formal political relations between Nepal and Japan? Have the political relations undergone any substantial changes in post-April 2006 days? What is the current status of existing economic relations between Nepal and Japan? What are the major areas where Japan is providing economic aid and assistance to Nepal? What is the current status of socio-cultural relations between the two countries? Is the socio-cultural relations between them is improving in the present time? What about the growing educational relationships between them? What is the current status of people to people informal relations between the two countries?

In course of collecting data, the secondary sources have been used, which, among other things, include the study of published and unpublished books, research reports, mimeographs, academic journals, newspapers, government and non-governmental documents, and speeches made by political actors and the official websites of the two countries. The search has certain limitations too. The research has covered the period in between 1956 and 2013 and has analyzed political, economic, socio-cultural and educational dimensions of the bilateral relations only..

This study has been organized/divided into seven chapters. The first chapter is introduction which deals with the key elements of research methodology including the nature and significance of the study, objectives, statement of the problem, hypotheses, and the methods of data collection, processing and interpreting, and the organization of the study. The second chapter is the short introduction/background to/of Nepal and Japan which in a nut shell deals with the geographical, socio-cultural, economic,

political characteristics of both the countries that would be helpful in analyzing the background of the existing relationships between them or to analyze the root causes of growing relationships between the two countries and to recommend the practical measures to further heighten the relations in future. The third chapter is existing political relations between the two countries which focus on the formal diplomatic and political relations in different periods in history in post-1956 days. The fourth chapter is existing economic relations between the two countries which focuses on the description of Japan's aid and assistance to Nepal in different sectors/dimensions in post-1956 days and finally help in the modernization of the traditional Nepalese economy in the present context. The fifth chapter deals with the growing socio-cultural and educational relations between the two countries in post-1956 days followed by summary, conclusion, key research findings and recommendations; appendices and references.

Nepal-Japan relations have become one of the most crucial areas of Nepal's relations with friendly countries of the world. It is one of the most vital areas of Nepal's contemporary foreign policy. Nepal's relations with Japan are important in the present day world are important from political, economic/business, socio cultural and educational point of view.

As the third largest economic superpower of the world, Japan is providing massive economic aid and assistance to Nepal and has contributed in the socio-economic development of Nepal. In the contemporary economic foreign policy, Japan is the first largest donor to provide economic aid and assistance to Nepal. In such context, Nepal's relation with Japan is one of the important aspects of its economic foreign policy. Nepal has maintained good friendly relations with countries of the world, including Japan. Japan's economic aid and assistance to Nepal is particularly important aspects of Nepalese contemporary foreign policy. In the context of 21st century; it is essential to view the relations with Japan in a more realistic and practical manner based on the aspirations and expectations of the people in both the countries in the changed national, regional and global context.

### **Nepal and Japan: Similarities and Dissimilarities**

Nepal and Japan have many similarities, though they have a number of dissimilarities too. Despite their physical distance, Nepal and Japan are close neighbors having cultural heritage and bonds since decades. Geographically, they have different characteristics. Historically, both Nepal and Japan have enjoyed independence and were colonized by western powers, when almost the whole world was compelled to taste the bitter taste of colonialism and imperialism. Culturally, both



the countries have many similarities in their societies which can be utilized for strengthening bilateral relations between them. Economically, Nepal has to get a lot from Japan, which is the third largest economic superpower in the world. Religiously, Buddhism is the second largest religious group in Japan (40.5%) after Shintoism (54.1%). This factor may be one of instruments in cementing the bilateral relations between them. Economically Nepal has to successfully attract Japanese aid and assistance in its socio-economic development, culturally; both Japan and Nepal are regarded as the richest countries in the world. Technically speaking, Japan is one of the most advanced countries in the world Japan is progress in science and technology has helped in its modernization programs. Nepal is far behind in respect to science and technology. In this context, Nepal's relation with Japan becomes highly important for Nepal, which is very backward in this respect. Politically, Nepal and Japan have many similarities. Both of them are practicing British model parliamentary system with nominal head of the state and strong/affective head of the government. The political characteristics of liberal democracies including global values of democracy are found in both the societies, though Japan is regarded as one of the stabilized and matured democracy in the world, though there were frequent changes in government and have political instability. Since 1993 onwards, there have been government instability and within 20 years, there have been fourteen government changes in Japan. Constitutionally, both Japan and Nepal have accepted the global values of democracy including civil rights human rights, freedom of press, vibrant media, rule of law, independent judiciary, to mention a few. In the field of international relations, both Japan and Nepal are the active players in international politics and are the members of a number of regional and international organizations including the UN. Japan as he member of group of four strongly advocating for the democratization and the Japan is an advanced country noted in the diplomacy world for quality education and technical and scientific education, whereas Nepal is far behind in this respect. Psychologically, the Japanese have high sentiments of nationalism, patriotism and love to the nation and the people. The Japanese are civilized polite and disciplined people.

### **Historical Background**

The history of Nepal-Japan relations goes back to 19th century when Japanese monks visited Nepal on their way to Tibet. The political relations with Japan became closer after the two countries established diplomatic relations on July 28, 1956. Japan was the 7th country to establish such relations with Nepal. During the time of King Tribhuvan, small activities were done in this direction. King Mahendra, who is

regarded as the architect of modern Nepal's foreign policy, in course of reducing Nepal's over dependency on India, stressed the policy of diversifying Nepal's foreign relations and started the policies of establishing diplomatic relations with maximum countries of the world. In this connection, his coronation ceremony in 1955 became the best platform to prepare a background for the establishment of diplomatic relations with countries of the world including Japan. King Mahendra (1955-1971) gave top priority in its with Japan and accordingly established diplomatic relations with Japan in 1956, established permanent embassy in Tokyo and became instrumental in setting up Japanese embassy in Kathmandu. King Mahendra sent his son Crown Prince Birendra to study in Japan and he visited Japan and welcomed visiting Japanese prince and princess in Nepal. King Birendra (1971-1989) also gave priority in Nepal's relations with Japan and visited Japan. The institutions of monarchy of both the countries became instrumental in promoting and strengthening the bilateral ties. Japan also provided unconditional support to the ZoP proposal, put forwarded by King Birendra in his coronation ceremony in 1975. In post-1990 periods, the democratic Nepal gave importance to its relations with Japan and accordingly, the Nepalese high level dignitaries, including Prime Minister G.P. Koirala visited Japan. The Japanese Prime Minister Mori's visit in this connection can be considered as the landmark event in the history of bilateral relations. In post-April 2006 and more specifically in post-April 2008 days, the elected governments of Nepal gave importance to its relations with Japan. The exchanges of visits at political level can be considered as important events in the history of bilateral relations.

### **Political and Diplomatic Relations**

The study of political and diplomatic relations between the two countries is one of the important dimensions of the total relations. Both the countries established diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1956. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between them, the relations between them have always been cordial. Both the countries share common political aspirations in many sectors, including firm commitment to the principle of peaceful coexistence, sovereign equality of the states, nonalignment, and faith in the UN. In the international field also, both the countries had also shared common approach in most of the issues, including the restructuring of the UN, the two countries have shared common views in many areas and intending to strengthen good friendly relations based on mutual understanding and respecting each other's aspirations, interests and needs. The five principles of Panchsheel and peaceful coexistence are the basis of their relations. The political relations between the two countries, during the periods of king Mahendra,

and king Birendra have always been very cordial. Such relations during the short period of king Gyanendra and under the republican era (2008-till now) have also been marked as excellent ones. The bilateral relations under the republican era (2008-till now) have also been very cordial. The exchanges of high levels political visits of both the countries in different periods of history between the two countries have took the relations to different height. These are the charms, attractions and beauties of the existing bilateral relations between the two countries.

### **Nepal and Japan Economic Relations**

The study of Nepal and Japan economic relations is one of the important dimensions of contemporary economic foreign policy. Japan is one of the few countries in the world which has played significant role in the economic development of Nepal in a number of ways including providing large amount of economic aid and assistance to Nepal. Nepal's relations with Japan, thus, have become one of the crucial areas in the dimension of Nepal's foreign aid politics and diplomacy. Japan's economic support to Nepal is without any political interest attached to it and, thus, is an ideal relation in the history of aid politics and diplomacy. The JICA office was also established in 1978 which played very significant role in the socio-economic development of Nepal. Japan has been supporting Nepal in its socio-economic development since 1969. In the present context, the Japanese aid and assistance has covered almost all aspects and dimensions of Nepalese economy. Currently, Japan is one of the major donors of Nepal playing significant role in the socio economic development of Nepal. Since 1969, Japan has been involved as a development partner in the socio economic development programs of Nepal. The Japanese loan assistance and grant assistance started in Nepal since 1969 and 1970 onwards respectively. Since 1970 onwards, Japan has started providing Technical Cooperation with the dispatch of Japan Overseas Volunteers (JOCVs).

In the contemporary Nepal, Japan is one of the largest donor countries which have played significant role in the all round development of Nepal by providing economic assistance to Nepal including important three components-grant assistance, credit assistance and technical assistance. Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) in post-1956 day was involved in the socio-economic activities of Nepal, Japan's economic aid and assistance can be classified under Japanese grant assistance credit assistance and technical assistance to Nepal which have been contributing much for the economic development of Nepal. Japanese Grant in Aid is one of the aspects of Japan's economic assistance to Nepal. Some of the major projects which were completed under Japanese aid are Kathmandu Valley Power Distribution, System and

Improvement Project, Teaching Hospital, Kanti Children's Hospital, Improvement in Load Dispatching Center, Construction of Food Storage, National Tuberculosis Centre, Expansion of Radio Broadcasting Network, Construction of Bridges in Kathmandu Valley, Kathmandu Bus Terminal, Improvement of Transport Capacity, Water-Induced Disaster Preventing Centre, Kathmandu Water Supply Facility and Thapathali Bridge (HMG, MoFA, Sept. 1996, p. 12). Japan's grant in aid includes a number of areas including its grant in aid to the extension of transportation and communication networks in Nepal, modernization of Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) micro-hydropower development. Japanese technical assistance to Nepal is one of the components of Japanese to Nepal under which Japan provides technical co-operation to Nepal with the dispatch of Japan overseas co-operation volunteers (JOCVS) in implementing/handling technical co-operation projects. In post-1995 days, Japan has dispatched 1400 technical experts and 838 JOCVS. The Japanese economic and technical support include a number of areas and dimensions including in environmental sector, technical sector in the contemporary Nepal, Japan is one of the largest donor countries which have played significant role in the all round development of Nepal by providing economic assistance to Nepal including important three components- grant assistance, credit assistance and technical assistance. Japan's financial assistance is provided both in specific project financing and program support. The technical support includes the services of Japanese experts, fellowships and equipment support and the development of human resources in Nepal. Besides these, Japan is also providing volunteer's service as part of technical support to meet Nepal's need of medium level human resources. In general, the Japanese aid has been utilized in a number of areas including in agriculture, health, education, rural, water supply, radio transmission, extension of transportation networks, electricity generation (including in rural areas), ground water development and the development of skilled and trained human resources. The bilateral trade between the two countries in current years is also flourishing, though the trade balance (in import export) is not in Nepal's favour.

Japan's financial assistance is provided both in specific project financing and program support. The technical support includes the services of Japanese experts, fellowships and equipment support and the development of human resources in Nepal. Besides these, Japan is also providing volunteers' service as part of technical support to meet Nepal's need of medium level human resources. In general, the Japanese aid has been utilized in a number of areas including in agriculture, health, education, rural, water supply, radio transmission, extension of transportation networks, electricity generation (including in rural areas), ground water development and the development of skilled and trained human resources. The bilateral trade between the

two countries in current years is also flourishing, though the trade balance (in import export) is not in Nepal's favour. Under Japan's ODA policy to Nepal, Nepal is receiving aid in different dimensions of economy including in hydro electric projects and the development of power sector (e.g. in Kaligandaki A and Kulekhani), health activities, agricultural development, providing safe drinking water, building educational institutions, project improving livelihood of farmers through environmentally harmonizing agriculture in hill districts, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), developing infrastructures in transportation and communication sectors, support in food and human security aspects. Moreover, Japan is also providing financial and material support for natural calamities, joint economic ventures, and debt relief measures. The arrival of Japanese tourists in Nepal is one of new but important areas that contribute to the strengthening of existing bilateral economic ties.

The Japanese mountaineering expeditions teams coming to Nepal is another source of attraction in the bilateral economic ties and the source of income for Nepal. Japan's aids to health sector in recent years have become particularly important. The exchanges of visits of the Finance Ministers, Commerce Ministers are also one of the sources of improving further economic relations between them. In the present context of globalization, there is better scope in future to promote further relations in a number of areas including in the fields of trade, investment (e.g. FDI), and human resource utilization. Though the limited volume of trade has not benefitted Nepal, new further scope for this can be identified in future. In the context of growing population and the growing unemployment in Nepal, it would be helpful for Nepal to "further improve relations with Japan in increasing job opportunities" in the international job market and "there is good prospect in this direction

### **Recommendations**

Japan, thus, can become "a good employer to thousands of unemployed Nepalese" though 'thousand of Nepalese are still working in Japan legally or illegally'. According to one statistics, there are altogether twenty thousand Nepalese citizens living in Japan and many of them are supposed to be students studying in different Japanese universities. The present scenario is not satisfactory from employment point of view and Nepal has to convince Japan (which currently is the third largest economy in the world).

### **Nepal-Japan Socio-cultural Relations**

Nepal-Japan socio-cultural and religious relations have certain distinctive characteristics. In many respects, both the countries share common socio-cultural and

religious values. Buddhism and Lumbini, the birth place of Lord Buddha have become important instruments in strengthening and cementing the existing socio-cultural and religious linkages/ties. Both the countries share common tradition history faith in religious beliefs and more important to these, the lovers of peace and nature. In the fields of arts, literatures, culture, traditions and languages, both the countries have many similarities. Both are rich in cultural heritage and traditional cultures. The Buddhist monks visiting Nepal have also become the instruments in promoting socio-cultural and religious relations between the two countries. The religious relations between the two countries are also particularly notable. Japan has also played significant role in the beautification of Lumbini by constructing beautiful statues of Lord Buddha. As both the countries share common socio-cultural values, the study of socio-cultural relations between the two countries are also gradually becoming important

### **Nepal-Japan Educational Relations**

The study of Nepal-Japan educational relations is one of the important dimensions in this direction in last few years; the educational relations between the two countries are growing very rapidly. The educational relation between them is gradually becoming more and warmer. Japan has played very significant role in the development of human resources in Nepal by providing financial support to the student getting higher education in the different universities of Japan. Japan has been providing scholarships to Nepalese students. Besides government level formal relations, the people to people informal relations are also substantially increasing in the contemporary world. These factors have the study of Nepal-Japan relations very important in the present context. This research, thus, intends to make original contribution in this direction. The informal people to people relations between them are also gradually increasing. Both the countries have their own unique and distinctive cultural and historical identities. The increasing people to people relations in different sectors are the attractions/charms and beauties of the bilateral relations. A number of socio-cultural and religious institutions established in both the countries have also played role in cementing the bilateral relations. The cultural exchanges between the two countries have also been particularly remarkable in this direction. In short, the growing socio-cultural and religious ties between the two countries have become one of the important aspects/dimensions of overall Nepal-Japan relations in the present context. The educational relations between the two countries in the present context have been very cordial and friendly. Japan is playing very significant role in the development and training of human resources in Nepal by providing scholarships and training opportunities to Nepalese students to study in Japanese Universities which

have become very fruitful in the all round development of the nation. .This has led to the production of high skilled human resources in Nepal. A large number of students (total twenty thousand living in Japan now many of them are students studying in Japanese universities) are enjoying the educational opportunities granted by Japan under scholarship programs. Japan currently is the destination of many Nepalese students and it has become important attractions to them. Japan has also been providing educational support to Nepal in the construction of primary school building in the remote rural villages. This has contributed, for the development of rural education in Nepal. The School Sector Reform Programs are another attraction in this direction which intends to provide environmental sanitation facilities to school children in remote VDCs of Nepal.

Nepal-Japan bilateral relations should travel beyond the current existing relationships. In order to further tighten/strengthen the existing bilateral relations between the two countries and preserve its beauty in the days to come.

In short, Nepal-Japan relations in the present contemporary world, has been very cordial and friendly and the relations have been cemented with the high level visits taking place in post-1956 days. The embassies in Tokyo and Kathmandu have been instrumental in further cementing the relationships and taking it to new height. The messages exchanged occasionally at head of the state and head of the government levels have further nourished the ties. The economic support provided by Japan to Nepal in the form of grant/aid, loan technical assistance soft loan, material support further tightened the existing bilateral relations. The cultural ties between the two countries at people level have further added charms, beauties and attraction in the existing relationships. Japan's educational supports to Nepal in the form of scholarships to Nepalese students to study in different universities of Japan have led to the development of human resources of Nepal. In recent years, the Japanese educational support to primary schools in remote areas in different forms including the construction of physical infrastructures and training to the teachers of Japanese language have further tightened the existing ties.

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## **ABBREVIATION/ACRONYMS**

|           |   |   |
|-----------|---|---|
| BS        | - | Bikram Sambat   |
| CPN (UML) | - | Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist)                   |
| ed.       | - | Editor  |
| ECCD      | - | International Economic Co-operation Co-ordination Division            |
| FNCCI     | - | Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry              |
| FP        | - | Foreign Policy  |
| GoN       | - | Government of Nepal   |
| HMG       | - | His Majesty's Government  |
| HMG/N     | - | His Majesty's Government of Nepal                                     |
| JAAN      | - | Jica Alumni Association of Nepal                                      |
| JACV      | - | Japan Overseas Co-operation Volunteer                                 |
| JALTAN    | - | Japan Language Teachers' Association                                  |
| JICA      | - | Japan International Co-operation Agency                               |
| JNS       | - | Japan-Nepal Society   |
| JUAAN     | - | Japanese Universities Alumni Association, Nepal                       |
| JUSAN     | - | Japan University Students Association Nepal                           |
| MoFA      | - | Ministry of Foreign Affairs   |
| MEXT      | - | Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan |
| n.d.      | - | not dated   |
| NAAS      | - | Nepal AOTS Alumni Society   |
| NC        | - | Nepali Congress   |
| NGO       | - | Non Governmental Organization   |
| NJCL      | - | Nepal-Japan Children Library  |
| NJFC      | - | Nepal-Japan Friendship Council  |

|       |   |   |
|-------|---|---|
| NJFCA | - | Nepal-Japan Friendship and Cultural Association |
| No.   | - | Number  |
| ODA   | - | Official Development Assistance                 |
| OTCA  | - | Overseas Technical Co-operation Agency          |
| TU    | - | Tribhuvan University                            |
| TUTH  | - | Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital          |
| UK    | - | United Kingdom                                  |
| UN    | - | United Nations                                  |
| VDC   | - | Village Development Committee                   |
| Vol.  | - | Volume  |
| ZoP   | - | Zone of Peace                                   |

## **CHAPTER - I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Introduction**

Nepal's relations with Japan are one of the important aspects of contemporary Nepalese foreign policy. Nepal has maintained good friendly relations with countries of the world, including Japan. As the third largest economic superpower of the world, Nepal's relation with Japan is one of the important aspects of its foreign policy. In the context of 21<sup>st</sup> century; it is essential to view the relations with Japan in a more realistic and practical manner based on the aspirations and expectations of the people in both the countries in the changed national, regional and global context.

The political and diplomatic relations between the two countries have always been cordial since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1956. Both the countries had shared common political aspirations in many sectors, including firm commitment to the principle of peaceful coexistence, sovereign equality of the states and faith in the UN. In the international field also, both the countries had also shared common approach in most of the issues, including the restructuring of the UN, the two countries have shared common views in many areas and intending to strengthen good friendly relations based on mutual understanding and respecting each other's aspirations, interests and needs (The official website of the MOFA of Nepal <http://www.mofa.gov.np/bilateral/nepal-japan.php>).

The political relations between the two countries, during the periods of King Mahendra, and King Birendra have always been very cordial. Such relations during the short period of King Gyanendra and under the republican era (2008-till now) have also been marked as excellent ones.



The exchanges of high levels political visits of both the countries in different periods of history between the two countries have taken the relations to different height.

Nepal and Japan are the members of a number of regional and international organizations including the UN, the World Bank group, and the Asian Development Bank. Nepal and Japan established diplomatic relations in 1956. In 1968, embassy of Japan was established in Nepal which strengthened the existing ties of friendship between the two countries. The JICA office was also established in 1978 which played very significant role in the socio-economic development of Nepal. Japan has been supporting Nepal in its socio-economic development since 1969 and is one of the major donors of Nepal playing significant role in the socio economic development of Nepal. In the present context, the Japanese aid and assistance has covered almost all aspects and dimensions of Nepalese economy. Since 1969, Japan has been involved as a development partner in the socio economic development programs of Nepal. The Japanese loan assistance and grant assistance started in Nepal since 1969 and 1970 onwards respectively. Since 1970 onwards, Japan has started providing Technical Cooperation with the dispatch of Japan Overseas Volunteers (JOVCs).

Japan is one of the few countries in the world which has played significant role in the economic development of Nepal in a number of ways including providing large amount of economic aid and assistance to Nepal. Nepal's relations with Japan, thus, have become one of the important dimensions of Nepal's foreign aid politics and diplomacy. Japan's economic support to Nepal is without any political interest attached to it.

As one of the Buddhist countries in the world, Japan has always demonstrated most liberal attitude towards Nepal, the birth place of Lord Buddha and its people. The socio-cultural relations between the two countries

are also gradually becoming closer. Nepal as the birth place of Lord Buddha is the pilgrimage center for all the Japanese people. The religious relations between the two countries are also particularly notable. Japan has also played significant role in the beautification of Lumbini by constructing beautiful statues of Lord Buddha.

In last few years, the educational relationships between the two countries have also been particularly notable and gradually becoming more and warmer. Japan has played very significant role in the development of human resources in Nepal by providing financial support to the student getting higher education in different universities of Japan. Japan has been providing scholarships to Nepalese students. Besides government level formal relations, the people to people informal relations are also substantially increasing in the contemporary world.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problems**

The following problems and research questions have been formulated in this study.

What is the existing formal political relation between Nepal and Japan?  
What is the existing economic relation between Nepal and Japan? What about the socio-cultural, relations between the two countries? Why is the informal and personal relationship between them growing these days?

## **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of this study are as follows:

- (a) To analyze the existing political relations between Nepal and Japan;
- (b) To analyze the existing economic relations between them;
- (c) To analyze existing cultural relations between them.

## **1.4 Significance of the Study**

The study of Nepal Japan relations is important in post-1990 days Nepal. As Japan is the major donor country and Nepal's relations with Japan becomes important aspect of Nepalese economic foreign policy. The Japanese aid to Nepal has no political interest attached to it. The lack of adequate materials in this direction further inspired this researcher to make research on such an important topic in the present context. This research thus, would help the foreign policy makers to formulate new policies in the existing bilateral relations. This research has also added new knowledge particularly in the existing economic, socio-cultural, educational and religious relations between the two countries. This research is important not only to this researcher but also for future researchers to explore new areas of cooperation between them.

## **1.5 Methodology**

This research is primarily based on secondary sources which include published and unpublished materials, books, research reports, newspapers, government publications, documents, bilateral treaties signed between the two countries and the speeches made by political actors in different periods of history. In course of data collection, the public libraries in Kathmandu including the TU Central Library (TUCL), Documentation Centres of CEDA and CNAS have been extensively consulted for the printed materials.

In course of analyzing collected secondary data, descriptive, analytical, and historical research designs and methods have been used. The political relations between the two countries have been analyzed from historical perspective following descriptive and analytical approach. The statistical and quantitative tools have not been used though some tables have been used in analyzing economic relations between the two countries.

## **1.6 Limitations of the Study**

The research includes the relations between the two countries in political, economic, socio-cultural dimension only during 1956-2013.

## **1.7 Organization of the Study**

This study has been divided into seven chapters.

The first chapter is introduction which mainly deals with the key elements of research methodology including the nature and significance of the study, objectives, statement of the problem, hypotheses, and the methods of data collection, processing and interpreting, and the organization of the study.

The second chapter is review of literature which reviews all the available print and electronic materials in brief.

The third chapter is short introduction to Nepal and Japan in a nut shell and deals with the geographical, socio-cultural, economic, political characteristics of both the countries that would be helpful in analyzing the background of the existing relationships between them or to analyze the root causes of growing relationships between the two countries and to recommend the practical measures to further heighten the relations in future.

The fourth chapter is existing political relations between the two countries which focus on the formal diplomatic and political relations in different periods in history in post 1956 days.

The fifth chapter is existing economic relations between the two countries which focuses on the description of Japan's aid and assistance to Nepal in different sectors/dimensions in post-1956 days and finally help in the modernization of the traditional Nepalese economy in the present context.

The sixth chapter deals with the growing socio-cultural, religious and educational relations between the two countries in post 1956 days.

The last and seventh chapter draws the research findings,summary, conclusion, key and recommendations of the study followed by bibliography

and appendices. The summary, conclusion, key research findings and recommendations in particular, include some practical measures to take the existing relations to new height.

## **CHAPTER - II**

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURES**

In order to complete this research, a number of materials, printed and electronic, have been used and some of the prominent literatures have been reviewed here:

In the context of the above stated objectives, an attempt has been made here to review available and concerned literatures in the context of Nepal's foreign policy in general and Nepal-Japan relations in particular.

The books on Nepalese foreign policy so far published basically deal with Nepal's relations with its two immediate neighbors– China and India and analyze Nepal's relations with other countries of the world including the superpowers and major global powers in the context of China and India. In post 1956 days, King Mahendra adopted the policy of diversification of Nepal's foreign and diplomatic relations with other countries of the world including Japan is Nepal-Japan relations seen largely in the context of Nepal's strategy for survival between military and industrial rivals-China and India. The books on Nepalese foreign policy so far published and the research so far conducted concentrate on either Nepal's relations with its two immediate neighbors or with superpowers. Nepal's relations with the immediate neighbors and its relations with other countries of the world find top priority for both the text book writers or for academic researchers.

The absence of independent literatures on the various dimensions of Nepal-Japan relations, including socio-cultural, political and economic, educational, religious ones have led to the absence of materials in this direction.

One of the most pioneering books on Nepalese foreign policy by prominent American political scientist Leo E. Rose (1973) has been massively used in this research. Nepal's difficult geographical position and location in between two world powers-China and India has been analyzed in the book, what Rose calls Nepal's strategy for survival.

The book analyzes the basic characteristics of Nepal's foreign policy, Nepal's relations with its two immediate neighbors its determinants, development/evolution of the foreign policy till the beginning of the Panchayat days. (Rose, 1973). His focus is also on global powers and two immediate neighbors stating that "Nepali comprehension of these two great powers has been strongly conditioned by the history of Kathmandu's relations with them" (Rose, 1973, p. 15).

As the book was written during the time of cold war and with the author's tilt towards the west, he has tried to analyze the intention and mood of the ruling elites of Nepal towards the two immediate neighbors. In this context, Rose writes,

therefore, is based ultimately on the assumption that China will not militarily challenge New Delhi's dominant position to the south of the Himalayan crest on anything but a short-term basis, such as the 1962 border war, at least so long as India is functioning politically and is capable of concerted and effective responses to aggression. When Nepali officials assert, rather sanctimoniously at times, that they do not fear Chinese aggression, there is an unspoken but vital addendum: 'so long as India is capable of coming to our assistance' (Rose, 1973, pp. 288-289).

As the supporter of the West, Rose has tried to analyze Chinese intention and mood towards Nepal and the perception of the Nepalese political and ruling elites towards the north. In the context, Rose further adds:

There is, of course, no similar confidence with regard to Peking's probable response in the event of overt Indian aggression against Nepal or of indirect Indian intervention through support of dissident Nepali political factions. The pragmatic Nepalis doubt that China would even consider risking a general war with India unless its own vital interests were somehow involved. America's refusal to challenge the Soviet Union on Hungary or Czechoslovakia, Russia's back down in the Cuban crisis, and Peking's own noisy but timid response to the US bombing of North Vietnam are all considered to be pertinent lessons. Although Nepal is vital to India's strategic and defense planning, and New Delhi could not safely allow the area to come under a dominant Chinese influence, it must be of secondary importance, at most, in Peking's strategic calculations on China's long and troubled frontier. (Rose, 1973, pp. 288-289).

Rose's contribution lies in the fact that it enables the researchers to have a bird's eye view of Nepal's foreign policy, strategic goal of survival as an independent sovereign country lying in between world's two eminent powers in the contemporary world.

Another pioneering book on Nepalese foreign policy by renowned Indian scholar S.D. Muni (1973) analyzes the foreign policy of sovereign and independent state-Nepal from the perspective of its two immediate neighbors. As one of the most widely read book on Nepalese foreign policy, it has mentioned about the basic determinants of Nepalese foreign policy, objectives of Nepal's foreign and economic policies, its evolution in different periods of history, its relations with India and China. Following Rose's line of thinking in some cases, Muni has also dealt about "Nepal's strategic position was enhanced owing to its location *vis-à-vis* a giant communist power led to powers outside South Asia taking an interest in it. The Kingdom represented an important link in the U.S. objectives of containing communism on all fronts." (Muni, 1973, pp. 45-46). In this context, Muni has stated:

Nepal did not envisage a military threat to its independence from major world powers, according to the author, but such a threat was obviously more imminent from its immediate neighbors: from China the threat was of "politico-military" nature while that from India was largely of a political nature (Muni, 1973, p. 47).

Muni has tried to analyze the characteristics of Nepalese foreign policy and balance of power.

Another book by two leading American political scientists Rose and Scholz (1980) also analyzes Nepal's foreign policy from new perspective outlying how Nepal has to face external security threats in the central Himalayan region and in the south and how Nepal successfully faced them. The two authors in this book, however, seem positive towards Nepal's independent status, patriotic and nationalistic feeling and its national interests. They state Nepal "will continue to function as an independent-minded, fiercely nationalistic polity that exploits any and all opportunities to devise policies that advance its perceptions of Nepal's interests." (Rose and Scholz, 1980, p. 137). This reflects the change of mood of the west towards Nepal and also the change in the nature of international politics. Rose, however, could not make such statement in his book published in 1973.



Unlike Rose, and Muni, Jagadish Sharma (1986) in his doctoral dissertation entitled *Nepal: Struggle for existence* has analyzed Nepalese foreign policy completely from Nepalese perspective/“nationalistic perspective”. He also boasts of Nepal’s independent status throughout its history stating Nepal’s “uninterrupted success in the struggle for maintaining her independent national existence” and gives “some clues to the understanding of ever increasing successes the smaller countries have underscored in their confrontation with overwhelmingly superior powers.” (Sharma, 1986, pp. vii-viii). Sharma also seems to be supporting Schumacher’s concept of small is beautiful. Sharma’s book has some strong plus points and characteristics. He has analyzed Nepal’s foreign policy from historical perspective. He has unhesitatingly supported the role played by King Mahendra (1955-72) in the formulation of Nepalese foreign policy giving it new orientation and outlook. One of the important characteristics of the book is that he has fully accepted that there is close relationships between the domestic politics and foreign policy of a nation. Domestic politics is also reflected in the foreign policy of a nation. Sharma further states that King Mahendra in post-1955 days has tried to adopt an independent foreign policy as a sovereign nation in international politics. He has also mentioned about the diversification of Nepal’s foreign/diplomatic relations with nations of the world including China (1955), the USSR (1956) and Japan (1956) under the rule of king Mahendra (1955-72).

Sharma not only praises the role played by King Mahendra but also praises the role played by King Birendra (1972-2001) in foreign policy and diplomacy of Nepal and opened a “new era” by institutionalizing peace and development, by declaring Nepal a Zone of Peace during his coronation ceremony in 1975, a proposal which was recognized by 116 states of the world and has become the part of international law. Sharma has boldly concluded that Nepal “can and must look after itself.” (Sharma, 1986, p. 268). His main focus is on Nepal’s continued “struggle for existence” between China and India.

China “extended its support (to Nepal’s Zone of Peace proposal) in true spirit of mutual understanding of each other’s problems and aspirations. India, on its own part, accepted Nepal’s pursuance of its independent stand as a fait accompli and tried to heal the wounds inflicted on bilateral relations as a result of the political and material support extended to insurgent activities against the royal regime (Sharma, 1986, pp. 210-11).

Khanal (1996), one of the leading writers on foreign policy and diplomacy and foreign policy administrator, has also viewed foreign policy from Nepalese perspective considering Nepal's relations with its two immediate neighbors-India and China as

the triangular complex of relations" Nepal's national interests including its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity are prime concern "in a real sense a shared concern of all three countries" and that Sino-Indian friendship rather than Sino-Indian hostility is in Nepal's ultimate interest. (Khanal, 1996, p. 64).

Khanal has also mentioned about Japan in his book stating that the process of Japan defining "its proper place consonant with its economic strength is likely to produce some reverberations which Nepal needs to observe carefully." (Khanal, 2034 BS, p. 28). Khanal, however, is very practical in admitting that in the world of power, Nepal, as a small, landlocked and least developed country, has limited role to play in international politics because as a small and backward nation, it cannot influence the world. In this context also, Khanal seems very practical in suggesting to things to make foreign policy very strong- "a responsible national discussion of our foreign policy in its various aspects in detail and depth" and "an intelligent understanding" of international relations" and conducting of foreign policy by trained administrators. (Khanal, 2034 BS, pp. 136-137).

Sigdel (2003) deals with Nepal's economic relations with Japan and China. He concludes that Japanese aid;

provided good jobs and opportunities to its firms and contract companies to do business and has also preview opportunity to the Nepalese brokers, contractors and administrators to earn money for these groups always happened to be safeguarded by the Nepalese government authorities in power. Yet another instance is the launching of big hydropower project (Kulekhani) which helped the Japanese merchants to penetrate in Nepal and conduct trade in the name of aid (p. 48).

Sridhar Khatri, (1997, p. 13) in an edited article "Nepal in the international system; the limits of power of small states" has practically analyzed Nepal's role in international politics diplomacy giving the

impression that how much powerful a cat may be it cannot act as a lion. Nepal's emergence in international politics and diplomacy has been a "slow and arduous process."

Khatri has analyzed Nepal's role in international politics and diplomacy on the basis of the historical frames right from the process of unification. Nepal's power remained limited due to its geographic location between two world powers and Nepal's war with the south and the north.

The signing of the Treaty of Sugauli at the conclusion of the 1814-16 Nepal-British war, as Khatri views, "neither impaired Nepal's right to conduct its foreign relations freely with its neighboring states, nor did it reduce the country to the status of a protectorate." (Khatri, 1997, p. 13). At the end of the second Nepal-Tibet war during 1854-56, Nepal signed a treaty with Tibet without any consent from the British.

Khatri has tried to give the impression that with the signing of the 1923 treaty with the British India, it for the first time reaffirmed Nepal's independence, making Nepal loyal to British India. The 1950 Nepal-India Treaty of Peace and Friendship, as Khatri views, "established the basic framework of the hegemonic structure" (Khatri, 1997, p. 16) and also analyzes the provisions of the treaty and its implications on Nepal. Khatri very boldly states that Nepal has to develop its foreign policy and diplomatic capability if it wants to become active in international politics and diplomacy.

Mahat and Sharma (2006), in course of analyzing foreign policy have tried to analyze the vulnerabilities posing challenges in the direction of conducting Nepal's foreign policy and diplomatic relations. The two authors have tried to list such vulnerabilities, which, among other things, include unfavorable geographical location, and the activities of the immediate neighbors.

Outlining Nepal's incapability in pursuing independent foreign policy, Mahat and Sharma view:

In this interdependent and highly globalized world, Nepal can no longer take an independent position on foreign policy, and will be bound to respect the views of other actors while formulating the position, ... The totality of a number of factors like socio-economic compulsions, historical factors, geography and their dynamics, which do not always remain the same, determines the dynamics of foreign policy (p. 56).

According to Mahat and Sharma. “The totality of a number of factors like socio-economic compulsions, historical factors, geography and their dynamics, ‘are some of its aspects.

The authors mentions about the external threat which, they view, “is becoming less important” and also outlines the emergence of new forms of threat including “internal turmoil, socio-political destabilization, and externally-inspired domestic upheavals” (Mahat and Sharma 2006, p. 57).

Kumar (1989) in his article entitled “National security and foreign policy of Nepal” has critically examined the security dimension of Nepal’s foreign policy. He has analyzed the threats from its two immediate neighbors. The two immediate neighbors, saying Indian policy towards Nepal was framed under the assumption of potential Chinese threat.

Regarding the activities of the two immediate neighbors Kumar views: India wants Nepal to see China through the prism of New Delhi’s strategic thinking and desires to block any type of relations developing between China and Nepal which the Indian policy-makers think adverse to their interests (Kumar, 1989, p. 377).

He has also analyzed the peculiar difficulties of Nepal in handling its two immediate neighbors (Kumar, 1989, p. 380).

Gyawali (1996) in an article entitled Nepal Japan relations: traditional ties and Modern Development Aid has tried to give the impression that Japan is trying, what Gyawali calls to “wean Nepal away from British influence.” In the context, when Japan is emerging as no one donor in Nepal it is advisable for Nepal “to play a larger intellectual role in defining the concept of development and the philosophies that go with it” (Gyawali, 1996, p. 184).

Dipak Gyawali’s article entitled “Nepal Japan Relations: Traditional Ties and Modern Development Aid” has also very analyzed the bilateral

relations between the two countries stressing Nepal's strong need for Japan's aid for the all-round development of Nepal.

Dahal's different articles published in different journals and books (Dahal, 2057 BS) have also analyzed the different dimensions of the bilateral relations in a critical approach, which became very useful to this researcher in preparing this dissertation: Dahal calls the bilateral relations as "An Ideal Model of Relations between a Least Developed and an Industrialized Nation" is his one article which seems very practical analysis. Since Japan has no political interests attached to the economic aid.

Dahal's another academic article published in a JOURNAL (Dahal, 2012, pp. 1-28) has analyzed the different dimensions of the bilateral relations including political, socio-cultural, economic, and educational which proved very useful to this researcher.

Rai's M.A. thesis entitled Nepal Japan Relations (up to 1997), submitted to the Central Department of Political Science, T.U. Kirtipur in the academic session 2054/55 BS has analyzed the bilateral relations. From different dimensions, including political, economic, socio-cultural and educational ones. But this work covers the events only up to 1997 only (Rai, 1997). Shakya (1997) in an article has tried to outline the significance of the existing bilateral relation from his own perspective. But this work covers the events only up to 1998 only.

Thakur (1995) in his Dissertation entitled Nepal-Japan Economic Co-operation submitted to T.U. Economics Dept. M.A. Kathmandu in 1995 has analyzed the bilateral relations from economic point of view covering Japan's aid to Nepal till 1995.

The Ph.D. research and later published book by Jana Sharma has tried to fulfill /bridge the gap in this direction. This researcher found Jan Sharma's book entitled Nepal Japan Relations: Time for Strategic Partnership (Sharma,

2010, pp. 1-270) very useful in course of analyzing Nepal-Japan relations which has very beautifully analyzed the different dimensions of the existing the bilateral relations between the two countries.

The book has certain strong plus points. The six chapters of the book have focused on all dimensions of the bilateral relations including political, diplomatic, economic, socio-cultural, educational and strategic ones. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter entitled Cultural Relations, the researcher has tried to find out the similarities and dissimilarities between Nepal and Japan and has tried to analyze the existing relations on the basis of that. The book has analyzed the informal people to people relations in the context of cultural exchanges between the two countries.

The book has mainly focused on the need for the strategic partnership between the two countries in the days to come. The 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter basically focuses on the existing cultural relations between the two countries which gives a clear picture of the socio-cultural dimensions of the bilateral relations and the cultural similarities and dissimilarities. The 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter very beautifully traces the history of political relations between the countries in different periods of history. In this context he has critically analyzed the state and democracy building in both the countries. The 4<sup>th</sup> chapter basically focuses on the growing economic relations between the two countries stating Japan's aid to the economic development of Nepal in its different dimensions/sectors. The 5<sup>th</sup> chapter, which is the core part of the research, analyzes the need for strategic relations between the two countries in the days to come.

The book has certain minus points too. The book is highly analytical than informative and descriptive in nature and fails to point out the each and every detail of the bilateral relations, which would be very useful for the general researchers. In spite of these factors, this book has become useful for this researcher in many respects.

In course of analyzing the various aspects and dimensions of Nepal Japan relations, the books written on Nepalese foreign policy and the researches so far conducted on Nepal's foreign affairs and diplomacy have been taken as guidelines for these researchers which have been proved useful in course of the present research.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **INTRODUCTION OF NEPAL AND JAPAN RELATIONS**

Japan is one of the most advanced and prosperous countries in the world. Its advanced and scientific education system and technological progress has attracted people from all corners of the world. The Japanese way of life, Japan's rich and diverse culture, natural beauty and a number of geographical and socio-cultural charms/beauties are some other its attractions in the present day world (<http://www.np.emb-japan.go.jp>). Japan has unique position and characteristics in the contemporary world. Attempts have been made here to find out their roles in further promoting and strengthening the existing bilateral relations so that new areas of co-operation could be found out.

In course of analyzing Nepal-Japan relations, some of the important theories of international relations have been analyzed here which has become the theoretical framework of analyzing the bilateral relations.

#### **3.1 Theories of International Relations and the Bilateral Relations and Diplomacy**

In course of analyzing the bilateral relations between Nepal and Japan, it would be appropriate to analyze source of the theories of international relations including realism, constructivism, and liberalism. These theories attempt to provide conceptual framework and models upon which theories of international relations can be analyzed. These theories in international relations include theories like positivism, post-positivism, idealism and realism, neo-realism, constructivism, rationalism, traditionalism, behavioralism and post-behavioralism, Marxist theories, modernism and post-modernism (Goldstein, 2006; Waltz, 1979; Holsti, 1995; Morgenthau, 1985; Palmer and Perkins, 1997).



The realist school of thought in theories of international relations basically believes that nation-states are geographically based actors in an anarchic international system and are unitary in nature with no authority capable of regulating interactions as no true authoritative world government exists' (Morgenthau, 1985; Holsti, 1995; Waltz, 1979; Goldstein, 2006). This school believes that states (not INGOs/NGOs, or MNCs), are the primary actors in international affairs. Realism focuses on security and material power and considers self interest as a motivating factor in international relations liberalism concerns itself primarily on economic interdependence domestic level factors (Morgenthau, 1985; Cohen, 1981; Holsti, 1995; Kaplan, 1966).

Liberal school of thought/liberalism is of the opinion that has to make its internal political philosophy the goal of its foreign policy. State preferences, instead of state capabilities, become the primary determinants of state behavior. It also believes that interactions between states are not limited to political/security/high politics but also extended to a number of areas including socio-cultural and low politics economic dimensions (through commercial or business firms and individuals); constructivism/constructive school of thought of international relations focuses on the role of ideas in shaping international system, which basically refer to the goals, threats, fears, identities of other elements of perceived reality that influence states and non-state actors in the international system (Morgenthau, 1985; Cohen, 1981; Holsti, 1995; Kaplan, 1966).

On the other hand, functionalism/functional theory of international relation stresses on the common interests shared by states. It concentrates on phenomenon as functions of a system rather than actors. This theory got momentum after the European integrative movement remained promoted.

Marxist and neo Marxist international relation theories are supposed to be the positivist paradigms which reject the realistic/liberal view of state

conflict or cooperation, instead of focusing on the economic and material aspects. Marxists consider international system as an integrated capitalist system in course of accumulation of capital.

Democratic peace theory, in contrary to realist and liberalists, believe that democracies have never made war on one another or two democracies never fight with each other. In other words, people take their right to peace one day (Aryal, Subedi and Thapa, 2010, pp. 8-10).

On the basis of theories of international relations, the bilateral relations or bilateral diplomacy between Nepal and Japan have been studied here.

Geographically, Japan is a country of islands. Economically speaking, Japan is an advanced country of the world (next to the US and China) and is one of the industrialized nations having rich mineral/natural resources. Politically, Japan has multiparty parliamentary system on British line with oldest and most respected institution of kingship in the world. Prepared on November 3, 1946 and enforced since May 3, 1947, the present Japanese constitution mentions about bicameral legislature known as the Diet consisting of the House of Representatives and House of Counselors and the Japanese Executive is responsible to the Diet. There is constitutional provision of independent judiciary and Japan has nearly seven principal political parties operating within the political and constitutional framework (Kishimoto, 1997). Socially, Japan is a modern secular state.

### **3.2 Similarities and Dissimilarities between Nepal and Japan**

There are several dissimilarities between the two countries. Politically, Japan is a stabilized democracy in the world and is heading towards political process of modernization. Nepal currently is in transitional period attempting to institutionalizedemocratic polity human rights and civil liberties. Socially speaking, the Japanese society is one of modern, westernized and cultured societies internalizing the global social values into practice. The Nepalese society is more traditional and transitional struggling to become modern. Economically, Japan is the third largest economic superpower in the world whereas Nepal is one of the least developed countries of the world, attempting to become a developing country of the world within few decades.

Geographically, Japan is an island country in the Pacific having different geographic characteristics, climatic and ecological features. Nepal is an India-locked/landlocked country facing a number of problems in practice. Socio-culturally, religiously, ethnically, and linguistically, both the countries have much dissimilarity. Historically, both the countries have different but unique characteristics and experiences.

Nepal and Japan have many similarities, commonalities in a number of dimensions including similarities in history and characters (Kaminaga, February 27). In his letter to Prime Minister Chandra Shumsher, first Japanese visiting Nepal Ekai Kawaguchi on October 22, 1905 stated that there are much dissimilarity between the two countries (Appendix-1).

### **3.3 Determinants of Bilateral Relations: Context of Nepal and Japan**

The bilateral relations between the two countries are theoretically and practically determined/shaped/conditioned by a number of factors including geopolitical, socio-cultural, educational, religious, economic, political and strategic factors. Therefore, these factors have been analyzed here to know the real nature of Nepal-Japan relations.

#### **3.3.1 Geographical Factor in Nepal-Japan Relation: A Study in the Geographical Characteristics of Nepal and Japan**

Geographic factors and characteristics of nations play very significant role in determining or shaping the relations between nations.

Geographically speaking, known as the country of the Rising Sun of the East, Japan, a powerful country in the Far East, with an area 145,835 square miles (377,708 sq. km.) and a population of nearly 70 million, consist of four important islands in the Pacific-Hokkaido (83,517 km.), Honshu (231,102 km.), Shikoku (188,000 km.) and Kyushu (44,379 km.). Covering nearly 0.3% of the total earth's surface, Japan is nearly 25 times smaller than the US, 9<sup>th</sup> time than India and Nearly 1½ times smaller than the UK (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1986, p. 6).

Japan is a island nation in Far East and strato volcanic archipelago of 6852 islands largest being the four-Honshu, Hokkaido, which altogether comprise almost 97% of Japan's land area. The name Japan means 'sun origin' and Japan thus is known as "Land of Rising Sun." The term Nippon and Ninon mean "sun origin." Japan's closest neighbours are Korea, Russia and China. The Sea of Japan separates the Asian continent from the Japanese archipelago ([www.japan-guide.com/list/e1000.html](http://www.japan-guide.com/list/e1000.html)).

As earthquake prone country, earthquakes and sea waves are normal in Japan. On March 11, 2011, Japan suffered the strongest earthquake in its recorded history of earthquakes and Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster, one of the world's noted disasters in the history of nuclear power. But Japan has undertaken a number of measures in reducing the earthquake disaster risks in Japan, which among other things, include education and awareness among the people about them, basic earthquake resistant design and building code implementation in addition to technological development.

Like Japan, the Himalayan region and some parts of Nepal are seismically active ones. The ongoing collision related geographical processes and its position between two plates- Indian plate (moving to the north) and the Eurasian (Tibetan) plate has made the Himalayan region one of the seismically active zones in the world and being part of Himalayas, Nepal is seismically active (Adhikari, 2013 quoted from Adhikari, 2014, pp. 74-76). In this situation, Nepal can share Japanese experiences. The overcoming of challenges in earthquake risk reduction in Nepal through Japanese experience is one important aspect in this direction (Adhikari, 2014, pp. 74-75).

Due to the large North South extension, the climate in Japan varies strongly in different regions ([www.japan-guide.com/list/e1000.html](http://www.japan-guide.com/list/e1000.html)).

Geographically, Nepal is a landlocked country situated in between two boulders of Asia-India and China. Nepal, with a total land area of 147181 sq.km. including water areas of nearly 3830sq.km. is a small country in South Asia.

Nepal lies on the southern slopes of Himalayas. In the north the mountains include the tallest mountain in the world Mt. Everest. The central upland area cut through by fertile valleys and along the border with India are cultivated areas. Nepal has a long and important history of Buddhism tradition. Sakyamuni (The lord Buddha) was born in southern Nepal around 560 B.S. The most common image of Nepal outside its borders are the skilled guides and mountaineers know as Sherpa (<http://www.nepalembassyjapan.org>).

East west is nearly 800 km. longitude, from north to south 150 to 250 km. The country has been divided into 3 main ecological zones- the Himalayan region, mid hill region and the southern plains of Terai (Terai region). The Siwalik Zone (700-1500 meter), the Mahabharat range (1500-2700 meters), the mid-hill (600-3500 meter) is the important geographical characteristics of Nepal. The Himalayas (above 3000 meter) includes mountains, alpine pastures, temperate forests and limited by the tree line (4000 meter) and snow line (5500 meter). The Himalayas or "abode of snow" is in fact the youngest and highest mountain system in the world. It extends over 2,400 kms as a vast south-facing area between the Indus and Brahmaputra rivers with Nanga Parbat (8,125 m) and NamchaBarwa (7,755 m) as its terminal high points. Fully a third of 800 kms of its central section traverses Nepal and is known as the Nepal Himalayas. Here congregate more than 250 peaks that exceed 6,000 m in height- a unique concentration of lofty dazzling summits. Of the thirty one Himalayan peaks over 7,600 m, twenty-two like in Nepal Himalayas including eight of the world's fourteen highest giants (<http://www.nepalembassyjapan.org>).

Eight of the 14 mountains including the highest peak Mt. Everest (8848 meter) lie in Nepal ([welcomenepal.com/promotional/know-Nepal/geography](http://welcomenepal.com/promotional/know-Nepal/geography)). The High Himalayas are the greatest attraction of the foreign tourists including the Japan.

### **3.3.2 Demographic Factor in Nepal-Japan Relations: A Study in the Demographic Characteristics of Nepal and Japan**

The proper understanding of demographic characteristics and uniqueness (both similarities and dissimilarities) of both Nepal and Japan would help in critically analyzing the existing bilateral relations and also in further exploring new areas of co-operation in future.

Demographically Japan is one of the top ten largest countries in the world. Japan has certain specific demographic characteristics in world demographic system. Demographically, with over 126 million people, Japan is the tenth largest populous country in the World. Its population enjoys the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest life expectancy in the world. Similarly, it is the third lowest in infant mortality (e.wikipedia (.../Geograph...). The population of Japan is about 125,000,000 including approximately two million foreign residents. More than half of the non-Japanese population is of Korean descent ([www.japan\\_guide.com/listle1000.html](http://www.japan_guide.com/listle1000.html)).

Demographically, the demographics of Nepal have certain specific characteristics. The total population of Nepal (estimated as of July 2014) is 30,986,975 and the percentage of population growth is 1.82% (2014 estimate). The age structure is 0-14 years is 31.61%, 15-24 years 22.6%, 25-54 years 35.7%, 55-64 years 5.6% and 65 years of age and over is 4.5% ([www.indexmundi.com/Nepal/demographics\\_profile.html](http://www.indexmundi.com/Nepal/demographics_profile.html)).

In the present context, many elderly Japanese citizens are anxious about their future, the majority of senior citizens have been enjoying very favourable conditions in which a number of factors including the extension of medical facilities and the financial stability provided by the pension programs of the government. Japan, as the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest economic power of the world, has successfully managed its aging population providing quality services and care mechanisms. But due to the shrinking productive age group population in Japan, the country is facing several challenges and would face more in the days to come (Chalise, 2014, p. 47).

Nepal as democratic welfare state has also to learn regarding the management of its senior citizens in providing them different services, including quality services and providing health services. Nepal can share Japanese experiences in this regard and can also mobilize Japanese aid in improving their conditions of life in Nepal.

According to one statistics, the number of Japanese nationals residing in Nepal is 909 (October 2012) whereas the number of Nepalese nationals residing in Japan is 31,961 (May 2014)

According to one statistics, nearly 28,005 Nepali immigrants are living in Japan in 2013 with 6,466 students reaching in the same year. The three-fourth of Nepal immigrants living currently in Japan are either students or dependents or skilled labors. They have deep feeling of patriotism and intend to return back to Nepal, use their skill and knowledge for the welfare of the country if favourable environment for employment or self employment would be created by the GoN in the country (Poudel, 2014, pp. 52-53).

### **3.3.3 Socio-cultural Factors in Nepal-Japan Relations: A Study in Socio-cultural Characteristics of Nepal and Japan**

The socio-cultural characteristics of nations also play significant roles in shaping/conditioning/determining socio-cultural relations between two nations. The understanding of socio-cultural characteristics between two nations would help to understand the nature of existing relations and also to explore new areas of relations/co-operation in future also. In this context, it would be appropriate here to define the term culture here.

Basically, the concept culture, as UNESCO defines, is a set of "distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional factors of society or a social group and that it encompasses, in addition to art and literature, life styles, ways of living together, value systems, tradition and beliefs" (<http://www.unesco.org/education>). In brief, culture studies the spiritual,

material, intellectual, emotional characteristics of society or social groups. In addition to these factors, it also studies, the art, literature life styles, traditional values, beliefs and norms of social groups, their living styles.

The society, its value and norm systems, its characteristics are not static. They are always changing according to time, need and situation. The society tries to change/ transform/modernize itself crossing the traditional and transitional stages. The modernization (in most cases understood as westernization) and transformation process, thus, become the important aspects of social changes in every society. The concept transformation as Marsch (1967, p. 30) views can be understood as "The emergence of new forms of integration, evolutionary upgrading and increasingly adaptive capacity of societies."

Japan is one of the few countries in the world which has been blessed with a rich nature showing a great variety throughout the seasons. Japan during different periods of history has adopted culture from foreign countries besides developing its own culture rooted in the sensibility nurtured by the colors of nature. Japan is rich in cultural heritage.

Japan has rich cultural heritage which has attracted the whole world in the present day world (Karan, 2005, pp. 50-76). Japan, a rich country in Far East, has been blessed with rich nature and astonishing cultural properties and thus the country holds a considerably high number of sites (As of 2014 these are 18 cultural heritage sites in Japan) recognized by UNESCO as World Heritage Sites, many of whom are supported by Japan's diverse natural environment and its four seasons climate. Among the sites of historical cultural heritage, there exist many buildings influenced by the unique sensitivities of the Japanese people, reflecting great insights into the roots of the rich cultures of Japan. In line with UNESCO's wishes to protect and preserve such heritage sites considered to be of understanding universal value to humanity, Japan is preserving these sites for future generations intending to share them with people all over the world (INFOJAPAN, Vol. 38, August 2014, p. 6).



As of June 2013, 981 properties have been inscribed on the World Heritage list of which 759 are cultural heritage, 193 are Natural Heritage and 29 are mixed properties. Out of them 17 world heritage properties are in Japan including 13 cultural heritage sites and four natural heritage sites (The world Heritage in Japan, a leaflet no date of publishing).

Culturally, Japan is regarded as one of the richest countries in the world. Japan has a long history of its cultural development. Its culture is rich and diverse going back to 10,000 BC when the Jomon people settled in this country. The contemporary Japan is rich in traditional arts and contemporary pop-culture. It has unique social customs attracting the world at large ([www.facts-about-japan.com/japanese-culture.html](http://www.facts-about-japan.com/japanese-culture.html)). It has its unique characteristics in respect to art, religion, ceremony, music, traditional clothing, etiquette, literature and language, pop-culture.

Nepal too has certain specific socio-cultural characteristics and is regarded as one of the countries having rich socio-cultural heritages. Every ethnic group in Nepal has rich socio-cultural heritages which are found in very few countries in the world. The Newari and Mithila cultures, in particular, are regarded as the richest cultures in the world having some unique features.

In the Japanese society, some specific/unique characteristics are found in a number of areas including in (criteria of) group formation, internal structure of criteria of group formation, and the characteristic and value orientation of Japanese Man (Makane, 1998, pp. 1-153).

### **3.3.4 Ethnic Factors in Nepal-Japan Relations**

Ethnically, Japan and Nepal have different but unique characteristics. Nepal is a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, multi-religious society. The national census 2011 has reported 125 caste/ethnic groups out of which the Chhetri (16.6%), Brahmin-Hill (12.2%), Magar (7.1%), Tharu (6.6%), Tamang (.8%) and Newar (5%) being the largest ones.

### **3.3.5 Linguistic Factors in Nepal-Japan Relations: A Study in Linguistic Characteristics of Nepal and Japan Relation**

Linguistically, both the Japanese and Nepalese societies have different characteristics, similarities and dissimilarities.

Nepal is a multi-linguistic society with Nepali being the largest language, the *lingua franca* the language of government communication, media and instruction in educational and academic institutions. In 2011 national consensus, 123 languages are recorded as mother tongues with Nepali (official (44.6%), Maithali (11.7%), Bhojpuri (6%), Tharu (5.8%) Tamang (5.1%) and Newar (3.2%) being the largest ones.

### **3.3.6 Economic Factors in Nepal-Japan Relations: A Study in Economic Characteristics of Nepal and Japan**

The study of economic characteristics including the economic similarities and dissimilarities between two countries would help to analyze the nature of economic relations between the two countries and would also contribute to explore new areas of co-operation/relations in future. The understanding of economic characteristics of the two societies becomes a must in the overall analysis of the relations.

Japan has certain specific characteristics. It is the third largest economy in the world. The rise of Japan as the third economic superpower in the contemporary world is one of the important aspects of Japanese economic history and characteristics (Jansen, 2000, p. 726). Its economy was the second largest between 1968/2010. Japan is the world's fourth largest economy by purchasing power parity. During the fall of Tokugawa order (1800-1868), the economic growth has adjusted with a number of activities including social change (Duus, 1998, pp. 185-199). The "Economic miracle" became the part of its economic life (Duus, 1998, pp. 291-212). The changing economic shape of the countryside (Duus, pp. 307-312) and Japan's

emerging economic role in the global political economy in the 1990's became its important aspects (Duss, 1998, pp. 351-368).

The emergence of Japan as an economic superpower is one of its important economic characteristics (Janson, 2000, pp. 726-736). However, it is obvious that Japan's present day economic system has its root in history (Okazaki and Okuno-Fujiwara: 1999, p. 37). The existing economic structures and potentialities have also encouraged reforms in this direction (Okazaki and Okuno-Fujiwara, 1999, pp. 266-282). Japan's economic development is praiseworthy, but experts say that, it too has certain economic challenges and constraints including the environmental ones (Karan, 2005, pp. 9-49). In order to promote rapid industrialization, the economic rights of the workers' groups including self employed and employees have been protected (Kazuo, 1991, pp. 1-28).

Japan ranks third in Asia in the Human Development Index; Japan's 21st century resurgence is one of the important aspects in this direction (Pyle, 2007, pp. 363-374). It has finally undergone fundamental changes in response to the existing challenges of a new Asia and new global economy (Pyle, 2007, pp. 1-300). Japan has successfully handled its political economic issues in different periods of history (Gorden, (ed.), 1993, pp. 4-188).

But experts opine that Japan's economic power has also certain limitations in the present context (Emmott, 1989, p.22). These challenges are found in different dimensions (Emmott, 1989, pp. 1-22). In course of Japan's emergence as global economic power (1966-1970) the process of reconstruction, economic growth, economic globalization (1975-88) and financial regulation have also to be studied in brief (Takafusa, 1999, pp. 227-89).

Japan's main export goods are cars, electronic devices and computers. China and the US are its main trade partners followed by South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore, Thailand and Germany. Japan has a surplus in its export/import balance. The key imports are raw materials such as

oil, foodstuffs, and woods, the supplier being China, the US, Australia, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Indonesia and United Arab Emirates. The major industries are manufacturing construction, distribution, real estate services and communication ([www.japan-guide.com/e/e644.html](http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e644.html)).

Japan has achieved remarkable growth in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century after the devastation of 2<sup>nd</sup> World War ([www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-14918801](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-14918801)). Japan's international trade contributes significantly to the Japanese economy with exports equivalent to approximately 16% of the GDP. Japan has few natural resources and its agricultural sector is one of the most protected in the world ([https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/japan/japan\\_brief.html](https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/japan/japan_brief.html)). Historically speaking, the economic dynamics of Japanese empire were also particularly notable. The economic dimension of Meiji Empire was determining its overall politics (Myers and Peattie, 1984, pp. 347-497).

Economically, Japan is one of the most advanced countries of the world with developments in all sectors of life including in agriculture and co-operatives. Co-operatives play vital role in the economic development in Japan and the popularity of the co-operatives in Japan.

Co-operatives in Japan started in 19<sup>th</sup> century under the European influence. In Japan the agricultural co-operatives report outputs of USD 90 billion with 91% of all Japanese farmers in membership. In 2007, consumer co-operatives reported a total turnover of USD 34.048 billion with 5.9 percent of the food market share (Co-operative 2007 Facts and Figures Japanese Consumers' Co-operative Union, adopted from ICA, quoted from Shrestha, 2014, p. 62).

Nepal is a agricultural country constitutionally recognizing the role of co-operatives as the third pillar of economic development after government and private sector (The Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2007), Article 35(2) mentioning that the Nepalese state would pursue the policy of economic

development of the country through government, co-operative (public sector) and private sectors.

In the background of this Nepal can take advantage from the co-operative experiences of Japan and explore the opportunity of co-operative movement of Nepal in modern sense according to the need of the time and situation.

Economically, Nepal too has certain specific characteristics. Nepal is one of the financially poorest countries in the world; and one of the LDCs in the world. About one fourth of the populations are still living below the poverty line. Nepal is heavily dependent on a remittance which amounts to as much as 22.25% of GDP. Agriculture is the main occupation of the country which gives livelihood to more than 70% of the population and accounting to overall share to development ([www.indexmundi.com/dp/nepal/economy\\_profile.html](http://www.indexmundi.com/dp/nepal/economy_profile.html)).

The aggregate economic indicators in general for first ten months of the current fiscal year 2012-13 have been positive. Achieved economic growth less than targeted, monetary inflation rate higher than targeted, and growing trade deficit, however, remain as challenges to the economy. According to preliminary estimates, economy in FY 2012/13 is estimated to grow only by 3.56 percent at basic price and 3.65 percent at producers' price against the targeted 5.5 percent. Economic growth rate in the previous fiscal year (<http://www.nepalembassyjapan.org>).

With limited industries in Nepal, the process of industrialization is very low. The industrial activities include the processing of agricultural products (e.g. pulse, jute, sugarcane, tobacco and food grains). Nepal has scope in hydropower with an estimated capacity of 42,000 MW of commercially, feasible capacity.

But foreign investment has been hampered in Nepal due to a number of reasons, including the political factors, ideological factors, weak law and order position. The landlocked position of Nepal, continuous power shortage,

inadequate transportation and communication networks, political unrests, to mention a few are some other factors hampering foreign investment in Nepal. The absence of political consensus among the principal political parties on issues of core vital interests have created further problems in this direction ([www.indexmundi.com/ Nepal/economy\\_profile.html](http://www.indexmundi.com/Nepal/economy_profile.html)).

### **3.3.7 Technical Factors in Nepal-Japan Relations: A Study in Technological Characteristics of Japan and Nepal**

Technologically, from the view point of science and technology the two countries have vast differences. Japan is highly developed in respect to science and technology. Science and technology has massively been used for economic growth of the nation (Morris, Nakayama and Yoshioka, 1999, pp. 53-186).

Nepal is very backward in the field of science and technology. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century globalized world, no nation can prosper without the development in science and technology.

In this context, Japan's technological help to Nepal is essential to promote its modernization process. In this connection, Nepal has to have very cordial relations with Japan and mobilize Japan's technological advancement in the development of Nepal in different aspects. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century of science of technology, both Nepal and Japan have to work in collaboration in the field of scientific research in creating knowledge based society and unveiling the truth of nature for the benefit of human kind and all (Bhaju and Deshar, 2014, p. 1). A number of institutions related to the development of science and technology are active in Nepal.

The Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) is one of the core institutions, responsible for the implementation of science and technology policy in Japan ([www.jst.go.jp/EN/about/](http://www.jst.go.jp/EN/about/)). The rise of science and technology diplomacy in Japan is one of the important aspects in this direction. Experts believe that Japan has to incorporate science diplomacy into its foreign policy

strategy if it is to rebuild important relations with key countries and remain an important global power in global politics ([www.sciencediplomacy.org/.../rise-science-and-technology-diplomacy-in](http://www.sciencediplomacy.org/.../rise-science-and-technology-diplomacy-in)).

It has specific social security provisions including to women and older workers, and labour unions in the work place (Kazuo, 1995, pp. 131-152 and 195-207).

### **3.3.8 Political Factors in Nepal-Japan Relations: A Study in the Political Characteristics/Similarities and Dissimilarities of Nepal and Japan**

Politically, Japan is one of the stabilized democracies in the world. It has a British-model parliamentary democracy with constitutional monarch. The Japanese people have high respect to the imperial family and the present Emperor Akihito enjoys high respect in Japanese society.

The constitutional (or nominal) emperor under the current 1947 constitution is the head of the state and the regarded as the "symbol of the state and the unity of the people" with sovereignty vested in the people. Japan has three-tier government structure has three tiers-national, prefectural and local. In the present context, there are 47 prefectures, and 1788 local municipalities, each bodies governed by elected assemblies.

The legislative power in Japan is exercised by bicameral diet. Japan's legislative.Diet consists of two houses- the 480 member. House of Representatives (elected for four years term) acting as Lower House and the 242-membered Upper House (elected for six years term) is House of Councilors one hundred and forty six upper chamber members are elected in prefecture-based constituencies and 96 by Proportional Representation (PR) at the national level.

The executive power in Japan is shared by Emperor (as nominal head of the state) and the cabinet (its Chief Prime Minister being the real head of

the government). Majority of Cabinet members have to be the elected members of the Diet ([https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/japan\\_brief.html](https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/japan_brief.html)).

Politically, Japan is a unitary state with constitutional monarchy as the weak head of the state. The political parties in Japan are mature though there have been frequent changes in government (since 1993, 14 government changes in 20 years) (K.C., 2014, pp. 16-24). The political stability, especially the governmental instability has become one of the problems in Japanese politics.

Constitutionally, Japan is one of the stabilized states in the world. The new and current constitution of Japan, 1947 was declared in 1947. The lawmakers were willing to amend, the existing constitution in the 21st century. They had also amended the Art 9 of the constitution which remained as one of the most disputable articles in the present Japanese constitution. The Art 9 of 1947 Japanese constitution renounces the right to wage war to resolve international disputes and bans the maintenance of military.

Japan has unitary system and the two lower tiers of government are dependent on the central/national government ([https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/japan/japan\\_brief.html](https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/japan/japan_brief.html)). Japan has successfully maintained its democratic promises and practices in the real sense (Gordon et al., 1993, pp. 325-464).

In course of analyzing Japanese politics, the critical analysis of all aspects including nationalism, ideology and dynamics of Japanese Fascism, as Maruyama (1969: 95-84) views, are crucial in this context. Moreover, the role of media in politics and public policies are also other aspects which needs further study (Pharr and Karauss, 1996, pp. 131-274).

The Liberal Democratic Party, Democratic Party of Japan, Japan Restoration Party, New Komeito, Your Party and Unity Party are the largest parties respectively in the Lower House of Diet House of Representatives ([https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/japan/japan\\_brief.html](https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/japan/japan_brief.html)). Moreover, the regime



shifts, adjustment, collapse and reconstructions are other important aspects of Japanese politics (Pempel, 2000, pp. 113-220).

Politically, Nepal has a British model west ministerial parliamentary system since 1990. The government and politics of Nepal has certain specific characteristics. Under the interim constitution of Nepal, 2007, the president is the nominal head of the state and the Prime Minister, the chief of the Cabinet becoming the real head of the government. The CA also acts as the legislature-parliament and the Prime Minister is accountable to the parliament.

Nepal was a constitutional monarchy till May 28, 2008 and the first CA declared Nepal a federal democratic republic after abolishing monarchy. In post-1996, Maoist insurgency, period the CPN-Maoist emerged as one of the important political forces of Nepal.

The country currently is unitary in nature and is governed from the centre directly. The Interim Constitution, 2007 has guaranteed the autonomy of the political parties.

As Japan is one of the stabilized democracies in the world on British model parliamentary system, Nepalese leadership can also learn many more things from it.

### **3.3.9 Historical Factors in Nepal-Japan Relations: A Study in the Historical Characteristics of Nepal and Japan**

Historically, Japan is one of few countries in the world having long historical background and unique historical characteristics. Japan has a long history. The political history of Japan has certain specific characteristics. Nepal and Japan had enjoyed independence throughout their history, never having a foreign colony (Barua, 2014, pp. 4-5).

The periods of Japanese history, for convenience, can be broadly classified under the following headings including the early period (till 710), Nara and Heian periods (710-1192) Kamakura period (1192-1333). Muromachi period

(1338-1573), Azuchi-Moyoyama period (1573-1603), Edo period (1603-1868), Meiji period 1868-1912), Taisho and early Showa period (1912-1945) and postwar period (since 1945) ([www.japan/guide.come/e641.html](http://www.japan/guide.come/e641.html)).

Historically, the emergence of Japanese state has certain special unique characteristics. The building of modern Japanese state is the result of several historical events. The Tokugawa state had a number of unique characteristic including its dynamic foreign relations development of mass culture, education, reform activities (Jansen, 2000, pp. 32-62). The Sekigahara State was also unique in nature (Jansen, 2000, pp. 1-31). The building of Meiji state (and imperial Japan as state) had witnessed a number of ups and downs in course of building an effective Japanese State (Jansen, 2000, pp. 333-413). The imperial Japan tried its best to make effective state system influencing other regional neighbours (Jansen, 2000, pp. 414-494). Japan since independence entertained an effective state commanding other neighbors in the region (Jansen, 2000, pp. 715-768).

Buddhism was promoted by the ruling class and was accepted during the Asuka period (592-710). The Japanese state, as historians outline, was a strong state during the Nara period (710-784) of the 8th century. The Heijan period (797-1185) witnessed, among other things, the development of indigenous culture in Japan which made Japan a culturally rich country in the world.

Japan's feudal era was characterized by the emergence and dominance of ruling class of warriors, the Samurai, which led to the development of state in its own way.

The Muromachi Period (1336-1573) had also some unique characteristics. During the 16<sup>th</sup> century, traders and Jesuit missionaries from Portugal reached Japan for the first time. The modern era witnessed the establishment of a centralized state unified under the Emperor (The Meiji Restoration). Emperor Meiji (1868-1912), in whose name imperial rule was restored at the end of Tokugawa Shogunate, and his state system. The early 20<sup>th</sup> century has certain characteristics witnessed the increasing expansion and

militarization. During World War I, Japan allied with the victorious allies and widened its influence and territorial holdings.

Japan's Occupation of Manchuria 1931 was one of the important events in this direction. In 1936, Japan signed anti-Comintern Pact with Nazi Germany and the 1940 Tripartite Pact made it one of the Axis powers in 1941. Japan negotiated with Soviet-Japanese Neutrality Pact. Japan remained active during the Second World War period including in the Second Sino-Japanese War (1937-45). With the Japanese attack on US naval base at Pearl Harbor, the US broke its war time isolation and neutrality and declared war against Japan. The US atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, led Japan agreed conditional surrender on August 15, 1945.

Historically, Nepal is regarded as one of the oldest states in the world having long historical background and several ups and downs. The Kiratis, who ruled Nepal for really 1000 years in between 800 BC to 3000 AD were the first political rulers followed by the Lichhavis (300-600 AD), Malla dynasty (1200-1709 AD) and Shah Dynasty (1769-2007).

The process of unification of Nepal was completed in three phases. Prithvi Narayan Shah, the Great (1722-75), in course of first unification process unified several small principalities in the western and eastern hills and converted Gorkha into Katmandu, being the latter the capital of unified Nepal in 1768. During the second stage of the unification process, Queen Rajendra Laxmi (widow of Pratap Singh Shah) and Bahadur Shah tried to expand Nepal's territories both in the west and in the east. Bhimsen Thapa, during his 31 year long prime minister ship, further expanded Nepal's territories expansion was completed during his period. With the signing of the treaty of Sugauli in 1816 after Nepal-British India War 1814-16, the concept of greater Nepal came to an end, and Nepal's territories remained limited to the present state, except getting *Nyamuluk* from British India.

With Jung Bahadur Rana coming into power, Nepal came under family rule of the Ranas for nearly 104 years. The democratic movement in 1950-51 led to the end of century long Rana rule and the restoration of the power of the king, with King Tribhuvan being the real head of state/active king in 1951. During the decade long multi-party experiment in Nepal (1951-60), Nepal held first parliamentary election was held in 1959. The first democratically elected government was formed under NC leader BP Koirala (May 27, 1959-December 15, 1960) which operated for nearly 18 months in Nepal.

With the dismissal of the first elected government in December 1960, King Mahendra introduced non-party Panchayat polity and accordingly, the Constitution of Nepal 1962 was declared. The mass uprising in 1990 led to the termination of the non-party regime and led to the restoration of Multi-party Democracy (MPD) in 1990. Elections for the Lower House- House of Representatives (with 205 members) were held in 1991, 1994 and 1999.

The Maoist insurgency, that started its operation in post-February 1996, led to the violent outburst/insurgency in almost all most 50 districts killing more than 15000 people. The Nepali politics entered a new phase of mistrust and suspicion with the royal massacre on June 1, 2001 where all the family members of King Birendra were killed.

Nepal's second parliamentary experiment (1990-2004) suffered a setback on 1 February 2005 when King Gyanendra suspended the democratically elected parliament and Deuba government labeling it as incapable performing elections and managing the Maoist problem. The mass uprising in April 2006 led to the end of King Gyanendra's direct rule and led to the restoration of MPD. With the failure of the first elected Constituent Assembly (CA) (2008-2012) to frame a democratic constitution for the nation, the 2<sup>nd</sup> election of the CA was held in 2012, which was given the task of framing a democratic constitution for the nation. The CA is in the process of making democratic constitution for the nation on December 23, 2007,

monarchy was abolished and under the Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2007, Nepal was declared a secular federal democratic republic.

Militarily, Japan maintains modern military with eighth largest military budget used for self defense and peacekeeping. During the last decades, the Japanese politicians, including the lawmakers are making efforts to amend their constitution to allow its military to take part in peace keeping missions under the UN ([www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-14918801](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-14918801)). Japan with a standing military of about 225,000 personnel is well equipped and advanced and is about one-tenth army of China and one-fifth of North Korea's but bigger than that of the UK ([www.renters.com/article/2012/of/31/us-japan-defence-factbox.id.....](http://www.renters.com/article/2012/of/31/us-japan-defence-factbox.id.....)).

### **3.3.10 Characteristics Relating to International Relations**

Japan and Nepal have some similar characteristics in relation to foreign policy and diplomacy. Japan is active in international politics in a number of ways. As an active member of the UN and a number of regional and global organizations, including the G7, G8, the G-20, and Japan is one of the most active international players in contemporary international politics. Japan's relations with its neighbours are greatly influenced by the legacy of its activities before and during World War II. Its relations with Korea and China, sometimes, seemed bitter ([www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-14918801](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-14918801)), but it has managed it successfully.

Japan, as an active player in world politics, has maintained good friendly and diplomatic relations with almost all nations of the world, including China and Korea. In the present context, the key objectives of Japanese foreign policy/relations are to, among other things; promote a peaceful and stable international community. Japan has also contributed to find solutions to the problems including terrorism, poverty, environmental protection and infectious diseases, within and outside the UN.

Japan is the second largest contributor to the UN budget and a large donor of Official Development Assistance (ODA) which plays significant role in the development of developing countries including in the Asia-Pacific region. Japan contributes to UN peacekeeping operations, disaster relief, and other activities including in international counter piracy efforts of the Horn of Africa since 2009. Prime Minister Abe in July 2014 stated that Japan could exercise its UN charter right to collective self-defence. It has engaged actively in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. Its alliance with the US is the cornerstone of its foreign policy and national security. The security ties/strategic alliance and economic relations with the US and economic relations with other big countries are important aspects of Japan's foreign relations in the contemporary world. (Kawashima, 2005, pp. 24-73). Under the US-Japan Treaty of Mutual Co-operation and Security signed in 1960, there are altogether 38,000 US military personnel in Japan. The US Seventh Fleet is based in Yokosuka and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Expeditionary Force (III MEF) is based on Okinawa. Japan has very good bilateral relations with its neighbours and had played important role in supporting China's membership in WTO ([https://www.dfat.gov.au/jpan/japan\\_brief.html](https://www.dfat.gov.au/jpan/japan_brief.html)). Its relations with China, South East Asia and Europe are also very cordial (Kawashima 2005, pp. 109-126). Japan has trade relations with almost all countries of the world. It is also striving for peace and saving failed states in the contemporary world (Kawashima, 2005, pp. 135-152).

The exchanges of visits of high level dignitaries between Japan and other friendly countries are the basis of contemporary Japanese foreign relations. The Japanese foreign policy in the present context has certain challenges and options too. Its foreign policy has certain specific historical parameters (Kawashima, 2005, pp. 1-21).

In course of analyzing Japan's international relations, the study of its soft power-Doraemon, regional economic and cultural issues and political

economy are essential. It also decides about "What kind of Asia" it wants (Katzensten and Shiraishi, 1997, pp. 197-350). Moreover, it is also crucial to analyze the strategic environment, military bond, politics of alliance, economy, technology and security aspects of Japanese foreign policy (Green and Cronin, 1999, pp. 3-322).

Since last few years, Japan is trying to get permanent security council member in course of restructuring and democratizing the UN, it as one of the group of four has been advocating either to discontinue the veto power monopolized by the big five in the present UN structure or increase the number of permanent membership of the UN, as envisaged in 1945 when the UN was established. It is gathering support at the domestic and international level (Drifte, 2000, pp. 112-154). It is also actively participating in the working group on Security Council reform (Drifte, 2000, pp. 155-198).

Japan's relation with the West, as Hirakawa, (2012, pp.47-190) calls it is "Japan's Love Hate relations with the west." Japan's relations with the west is mixed-both having the feeling of hate and love. It's a choice for Japan, as Hirakawa (2012, pp. 47-190; 191-354) views, either "to turn to the west" or "return to the east." However, Japan has made several attempts for cross cultural elucidation (Hirakawa, 2012, pp. 355-446). Japan's evolving grand strategy has its own importance in this context (Samuels, 2008, pp. 188-210). The issues of other foreign policy and defence policies of Japan have also to be studied (Stockwin, 2008, pp. 246-264).

Like Japan, Nepal is also one of the active players in international politics and is the active member of a number of international and regional organizations including the UN and its specialized agencies, NAM, SAARC, BIMSTEC and others. As active players of international politics, both Nepal and Japan can exchange their ideas and views in international and regional forums. Nepal can also learn a lot from the dynamic foreign policy and from the civilized and matured diplomacy of Japan.

### **3.3.11 Psychological Factors and Characteristics in Nepal-Japan Relations**

The Japanese people have certain distinctive psychological characteristics. They are very honest, polite, disciplined, patriotic and having high work ethics. The Japanese people and political system is noted for a number of good things. The Japanese diplomacy is considered as one of most civilized, polite and matured diplomacy in the world. The Japanese people are among the most laborious people in the world. The sentiments of nationalism, patriotism love and affection to the nation and the people are very high among the Japanese. In the words of Oscar Wilde "there is no such country (like Japan) and there are no such people (as the Japanese)" (Kelts, 2007, p. II). They are unique people in the world. The Nepalese people have to learn many more things from the Japanese in this context.



## CHAPTER IV

### NEPAL-JAPAN POLITICAL RELATIONS

The political relations between Nepal and Japan have been very cordial and friendly since the two countries established diplomatic relations on September 1, 1956/July 28, 1955. Even before that period, some sorts of relations existed between them. In post-1955 days, with the exchange high level visits, the relations have become more cordial and friendly. A Nepal-Japan relation covers vast areas and dimensions almost including all sections of life. The bilateral relations between the two countries are characterized by three pillars- traditional friendship, official relations and friendship between people (Barua, 2014, p. 5).

The political aspect of Nepal-Japan relations is of the important dimensions of the bilateral relations between the two countries parceling. In this context, this section attempts to analyse the political relations between the two countries ranging from 1956 onwards to the Panchayat days under King Mahendra and King Birendra, the second experiment of multi-party democracy (1990-2005), the third experiment multi-party democracy (2006 onwards) and relations under Republic Nepal (in post-2008 days).

#### **4.1 Principles and Cardinal Parameters of Nepalese Foreign Policy**

The fundamental objectives of the Nepalese foreign policy, among other things, are to enhance the dignity of Nepal in the international arena by maintaining the sovereignty, integrity and independence of the country to promote its national interests and goals in regional and international politics and develop in dependent international personality in regional and global politics. Nepal's foreign policy is guided by certain basic principles including its trust on five principles of *PanchaSheel* as given below.

The foreign policy of Nepal is guided by the abiding faith in the United Nations and policy of nonalignment. The basic principles guiding the foreign policy of the country include:

- Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty;
- Non-interference in each other's internal affairs
- Respect for mutual equality
- Non-aggression and the peaceful settlement of disputes
- Cooperation for mutual benefit.

Besides these, the foreign policy of Nepal is guided by as mentioned in Article 35 (21) its trust on UN charter, nonalignment, international law and world peace and other globally accepted norms of international relations. The value of world peace also constitutes a significant element guiding the foreign policy of the country. Nepal, under Art 35 (22) also intends to institutionalize peace in the world.

Under the current Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2063 (2007), the Responsibilities of Nepalese State Directive Principles and the State Policy have identified the cardinal principles, parameters, and general directions of Nepal's foreign policy. The Nepalese state, under Article 34 (6) has to promote sovereignty, integrity and independence of the country: The Article says: "The State shall, in its international relations, be guided by the objective of enhancing the dignity of the nation in the international arena by maintaining the sovereignty, integrity and independence of the country" (Article 34.6).

The interim constitution, under Article 35 (21) and Article 35 (22) outlines the foreign policy guidelines which says:

The foreign policy of Nepal shall be based on the principles of the United Nations Charter, nonalignment, the principles of Panchsheel, international law and the norms of world peace (Article 35.21).

The State shall pursue a policy of making continuous efforts to institutionalize peace in Nepal through international norms and values, by promoting cooperative and good relations in economic, social and other

spheres with neighbouring friendly nations and all other countries of the world, on the basis of equality (Article 35.22).

The Nepalese state, under the above mentioned spirit of the constitution has tried to pursue a policy of making continuous efforts to institutionalize peace by promoting cooperative and good relations in the economic, social and other spheres on the basis of equality with neighbouring and all other countries of the world. As an active player in regional and international politics, Nepal has established diplomatic relations with 132 countries in the world and is an active member of the regional and global organizations including Non-Aligned Movement, the United Nations, its Specialized Agencies other International Organizations, and a founding member of an active player in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, BIMSTEC and also currently member of Asian Bank founded in China (<http://www.mofa.gov.np/en/nepals-foreign-policy-24.html#sthash.7ME3T9Or.dpuf>). Foreign policy in general is a set of policies and goals pursued by a nation in its dealings with other nations of the world designed to protect and promote national interests in order to achieve national objectives, goals and strategies. It is an expression of national interest and priorities; an extension of domestic policies; an expression of national ideology.

Moreover, it also contains elements of continuity and change in the new context, creates sense of purpose and provides direction in this area; exposes a state into international arena to gain international personality. They are aims and goals to enhance the dignity of nation in regional and global politics. It is an analysis of domestic position vis-a-vis international politics. It involves actions and reactions of nations towards international regional and environment. It is the basis of interactions between and among sovereign nations; and among regional and global agencies/organizations is intellect on substance delicate in nature. Moreover, it also intends to seek desired behavior from other countries of the world in their mutual dealings with other nations, regional and international organizations/groupings (Aryal, Subedi and Thapa, 2010, p. 17).

In the foreign policy of Nepal, a number of timely changes have according to the need of time and situation emphasis on foreign policy of Nepal formerly was characterized as landlocked mentality; political diplomacy (e.g. organizing state functions, representing country); was considered as elite's business; dominating role of MOFA; role of Royal Place; during the period of kingship secret, high handedness of executive branch (cabinet) and, protection and promotion of regime's interest. But the traditional foreign policy has undergone family changes the present policy has certain new trends including land-link(ed.) between two great civilizations, a bridge between two fastest growing economics; emphasis on economic diplomacy (e.g. export promotion, FDI and Foreign Aid attraction, tourism promotion, foreign employment, hydropower harnessing, information and communication technology, mobilization of NRN etc.); democratization of foreign policy, beginning of wider discussion; increasing role of other ministries; Prime Minister's Office (PMO) becoming active instead of kingship after 2008; greater transparency required parliamentary approval and protection and promotion of national interest in the present changed context.

In the present context, the basis objectives and goals of policy have certain priorities including balanced and friendly neighborhood policy; support to the UN activities/play active role in UN; cooperation with all particularly with LLCs; institutionalization of peace; strengthening of SAARC of regional peace, progress, stability and prosperity and support for disarmament initiatives (Aryal, Subedi and Thapa, 2010, p. 19).

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) plays very significant role in the implementation of foreign policy goals and objectives. In the present context, it has achieve certain goals and objectives which among other things include the conduct of Nepal's foreign relations with countries of the world according to the spirit of the present constitution, projection and protection of Nepal's independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and national interest

abroad, promote bilateral, regional and multilateral relations for the socio-economic development of the country; promote friendly relations with all countries of the world and particularly with its immediate neighbours, on the basis of mutual respect, trust, goodwill and understanding. Moreover, it also intends to play an active role in the UN and other regional international organization agencies in order to promote international peace and security, and promote development; play an active role in the UN and its agencies and the non-aligned movement and other bodies including WTO in contemporary world; play an active role in the promotion of regional cooperation in South Asia under the SAARC. Most important to this, it also acts as a first point of contact for the outside world towards Nepal and also serve as Nepal's window to the world and to play an increasingly active role in the conduct of Nepal's economic diplomacy, thereby promoting our trade, investment, economic cooperation, tourism and help tap and develop our immense water resources potential, and promote economic diplomacy in the present context (Aryal, Subedi and Thapa, 2010, p. 22).

The MoFA has to perform certain specific functions according to Karyabibhajan Niyamabali of Government of Nepal, 2064 which include subjects like foreign affairs of Nepal; relations with foreign countries; diplomatic missions stationed in Nepal; representation of Nepal abroad; coordinating and channeling of all foreign communications; United Nations and other international and regional organizations; issuance of passports and visas at home and abroad; extradition; participation in international conferences; hospitality and protocol matters; protecting the interest of the Nepalese nationals abroad; promotion of economic diplomacy to attract foreign investment, trade, joint venture, tourism etc. in Nepal; claims on respective citizens of foreign countries and protection of the rights and interests of the Nepalese people abroad (Quoted from Aryal, Subedi and Thapa, 2010, p. 24).

The MoFA has its own structures in terms of correspondence and communication. Political divisions work as a coordinating cell between other ministries and diplomatic mission. The divisions of MoFA include:

- (1) South Asia and SAARC Division,
- (2) North-East Asia, South-East Asia, Far-East Asia and Pacific (NSEA) Division,
- (3) Europe-America West Asia and Africa Division,
- (4) UN, International Organizations and International Law Division,
- (5) Multi-lateral Economic Affairs Division,
- (6) Protocol Division,
- (7) Administrative Division under it there are General Administration, Financial Administration and Communications are three sections. The diplomatic missions abroad perform diplomatic function (Aryal, Subedi and Thapa, 2010, p. 27).

The factors that determine Nepal's foreign policy, among other things are United Nation's Charter, principle of *Panchasheela*, non-alignment movement (NAM), international law and value of world peace, geopolitical situation, historical experience and ties, socio cultural relations (religion, social actions), economic factors, political system and change and influencing economic trends (Aryal, Subedi and Thapa, 2010, p. 27).

Nepal in the changed political context and under the 2007 interim constitution emphasizes on its trust on the UN charter, *Panchasheela* International law, NAM and regional organization. Nepal's foreign policy emphasized on the following concepts, among other things including non-alignment; disarmament and world peace; peaceful solution of disputes; friendship with all, close relation with neighbours; against colonialism, neocolonialism and discrimination; strong supporter for the facilities to land

locked countries and their unrestrained access to sea and adherent of aid with no strings attached.

## **4.2 Political Factors in Nepal-Japan Political Relations**

Nepal-Japan relations have been marked by deep sense of mutual understanding and goodwill (HMG, MoFA, n.d., pp. 25-27). A number of political factors including the institutions of monarchy in both the countries and the periodic exchanges of visits between the two institutions and the multiparty parliamentary democracies have contributed much for the building and nurturing of political relations between them. There exists an age-old close spiritual and cultural relation between the two countries. In institutions of monarchy in both Nepal and Japan has become one of the most important instruments in promoting the bilateral relations between the two countries. King Mahendra in 1970's had started establishing linkages with Japanese monarchy. Monarchy is of the most respected institutions in Japan. Nepal became republic in 2008. The periodic exchanges of visits of royal family members of both the countries have greatly contributed to the promotion and strengthening of good friendly relations between them (HMG, MoFA, n.d., pp. 25-27).

Relations between Nepal and Japan have remained close, cordial and mutually satisfying. Even though the diplomatic relations were established only in 1956, a Nepal-Japan relation goes back to a hundred years when contacts between the peoples of the two countries were established. The new democratic government in post-2006 in Nepal emphasized further strengthening of relations between the two countries (HMG, MoFA, 1993, p. 55).

Nepal and Japan have many similarities. In internal politics and global forums, Japan has been consistently opposing terrorism, extremism, separatism in all international and regional forums. Nepal in different global and regional forums has echoed the same voice. Nepal, under

Mahendra, has laid down the foundation of Nepal-Japan relations and Nepal's need for increased participation in regional and global forums. Nepal has praised Japan's constructive role in Asian development. Nepal-Japan relations are founded on five principles of peaceful coexistence which constitute the basis of peace and friendship among nations. The bilateral relations between them are marked by a number of important characteristics including warmth of good friendly relations, mutual understanding and cooperation of each other's expectations, aspirations and sensitivities (Sharma, 2010, pp. 42-81). The special characteristics of such bilateral relations, among other things, are their commitment to world peace, and prosperity of all nations.

The political dimension/aspects of Nepal-Japan relations for convince can sub-group into the following subheading:

#### **4.3 Nepal-Japan Political Relations during the Period of King Tribhuvan**

Even before the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, there were some sorts of relations between them. In post-1950 days the political relation existed between them, in one way or the other.

During the time of King Tribhuvan received (1951-54) Dr. Eizaburo Nishibori officially in 1952. He was the first official guest from Japan to visit Nepal and meet the Nepalese head of the state. Dr. Eizaburo was in Nepal to take permission for Japanese expedition team to climb up Mount Manaslu in Nepal (Devkota, 1979, pp. 116-322).

#### **4.4 Nepal-Japan Relations during the Period of King Mahendra (1956-1971)**

King Mahendra had played significant role in formulating the foreign policy of independent Nepal and is considered as the architect of Nepalese



foreign policy. Unlike his father King Tribhuvan, he tried to reduce Nepal's over dependency on India and tried to diversify Nepal's foreign relations by establishing diplomatic relations with many countries of the world including China and Japan. King Mahendra in post-1959 days friendship with India (see Appendix-1) was an obstacle for Nepal for its all round development and the development of independent international personality.

### **King's Mahendra's Official Coronation Ceremony in Kathmandu in 1956**

King's Mahendra's official coronation ceremony 1956 became one of the important political platforms for development relation between the two countries- Nepal and Japan. On the official invitation of Nepal, Ambassador Seiji Yoshizawa attended the coronation ceremony in 1956, on behalf of the Government of Japan (Dahal, 2012, p. 7).

King Mahendra in post-1959 days knew that the 1950 treaty of Peace and Friendship with India (Appendix-1) was an obstacle for Nepal for its all round development and the development of independent international personality.

During the coronation ceremony, King Mahendra took active interest in establishing diplomatic relations with Japan and exchanged views with the Ambassador Sajiyo Frankly, which proved a milestone in establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries on July 28, 1956.

### **Formal Establishment of Diplomatic Relations**

Japan was the 7<sup>th</sup> country with which Nepal had established diplomatic relation on September 1, 1956. Before this, Nepal had established such relations with one American nation- the US (April 25, 1947), with three European countries- UK (1816), France (April 20, 1989) and USSR (July 20, 1956) with two Asian Countries- India (June 13, 1947) and China (August 1, 1955).

The Exchange of Notes on Establishing Diplomatic Relations between Nepal and Japan, issued from Japanese Embassy in New Delhi on September

1, 1956 and signed by Japanese Ambassador to India Seiji Yoshizawa, among other things, outlined that the two countries. Japan was "desirous of promoting further friendly relations which have traditionally existed between Japan and Nepal" (Sharma, 2010, p. 242)(Appendix-4). In response to this, the Nepalese charged Affairs of Nepal in Nepalese Embassy in New Delhi (September 1, 1956) expressed Nepal's "desire to promote further bilateral relations with Japan and stated that it confirmed that "the diplomatic relations" between the two countries would be established of that date (September 1, 1956 (Appendix-5)

In the initial stage, the two countries had their embassies in New Delhi representing their respective countries (Shrestha, 2012, pp. 1391-94). Nepal established its residential embassy in Tokyo in 1956 and Bharat Raj Bhandari was deputed as Nepal's first residential ambassador to Japan. Japan also gave priority in its relations with Nepal and established its residential embassy in Kathmandu in 1968, with Hichi Machikira as Japan's first residential ambassador to Kathmandu (Shrestha, 2012, pp. 1391-1394). Since the establishment of permanent embassies in both the countries, the relations between them have further improved. Nepal under King Mahendra gave top priority in its relations with Japan and accordingly, the Nepalese Prime Minister TPAcharya visited Japan in 1956 opened the gate for further improving in existing bilateral relations. Prime Minister Acharya was the first Prime Minister to visit Japan.

### **King Mahendra and Queen Ratna's Formal State Visit to Japan, 1960**

During the period of King Mahendra, Nepal-Japan relations flourished to the largest extent. As part of Nepal's policy of diversification of its foreign relations in order to develop independent personality, King Mahendra gave top priority to Nepal's relation with Japan, under the first democratic parliamentary experiment (May 27, 1959-December 10, 1960). King Mahendra along with Queen Ratna paid an eight day state visit to Japan in

April 18, 1960 on the invitation of Japanese Emperor Hirohito, which served as the basis of formal political relations between the two countries (Dahal, 2012, pp. 1-28).

The "bonds of friendship between them proved more warmer and cordial (Dahal, 2012, p. 3). The year 1960 was remarked as important phase in the history of Nepal-Japan relations. The frequent visits of both the leaders at Head of the State and head of the government level strengthened the bilateral relations. The visit proved historic in many senses in taking the relations to new height. During this visit, the two kings exchanged their ideas very frankly. The Japanese emperor decorated King Mahendra with highest Japanese decoration 'The Grand order of the Cryson of the Moon.' Similarly, the Nepalese king also decorated the Japanese Emperor with, Nepal's highest decoration OjaswiRajanya (Shrestha, 2012, p. 392).

In a speech at a banquet held by their imperial Majesties of Japan made by King Mahendra in Tokyo on April 9, 1960 stated that:

The references made by Your Imperial Majesty to the Consolidation of our relations since the establishment of the diplomatic relations between our countries have touched a responsive chord in my heart. It should be an appropriate occasion to recall the representation made to me by my brother, His Royal Highness Prince Himalaya concerning the welcome accorded to him at the time he came here. I could legitimately hope that this State visit of mine should further strengthen the friendly bonds so happily subsisting between us (HMG, 1970, pp. 11-16).

In a message to the people of Japan in Tokyo on April 20, 1960, King Mahendra stated that:

From the very bottom of my heart I rejoice to meet Their Imperial Majesties of Japan and the Japanese people by coming here at the friendly invitation of Their Majesties. We must not omit to convey to the people of Japan the hearty greetings of my people that I have brought along with me.

The relations between our two countries have been of the most friendly nature; and I am very keen that this present visit of mine should pave the way to the further consolidation of those bonds.

Our principle in foreign matters is to live in peace with all our neighbours both far and near. We are very much solicitous that the noble endeavours being made to ease the international tension should prove to be a thumping success, so that the world may be a happy place for the whole of mankind to live.

We are very much thankful to you all for the warmth of the welcome and the cordiality of the hospitality extended to us (HMG, 1970, pp. 11-16).

In a statement given by King Mahendra, on April 9 1960 to Japanese press and TV, stated that the bilateral relations between them are growing. In a speech at a banquet held by their Majesties in honour of their Imperial Majesties of Japan held in Tokyo on April 21, 1960, King Mahendra further expressed:

In course of our short journey in Japan we have had the opportunity of visiting the important cities, the important industrial and important cultural centres. For all this, I am very much thankful to Their Majesties and the Government and the people of Japan... Like Japan, Nepal is also an ancient country. She has her own history, her own culture and civilization. We too do have our own national counterpart to the Japanese heroes who would gladly lay down their very lives in defence of the independence, the culture and civilization of the country(HMG, 1970, pp. 11-16).

The state visit remained fruitful in many cases in improving Nepal's relations with Japan. The two monarchies became instrumental in this direction. These visits have undoubtedly improved the existing bilateral relations between the two countries and took it to new height.

#### **Japanese Crown Prince Akihito and Princess Michiko's Visit to Nepal December 1960**

The existing political relations between Nepal and Japan became warmer with the visit of Japanese crown Prince Akihito and Princess Michiko to Nepal in 1960 as the representative of Japanese Emperor.

### **4.5 Nepal-Japan Relations during the Panchayat Period (1962-1989)**

#### **4.5.1 King Mahendra and Nepal-Japan Relations (1962-70)**

The partyless Panchayat polity under King Mahendra 1962-1972) gave top priority in Nepal's relations with Japan. In post-December 1960 period,

King Mahendra became specific in diversifying Nepal's foreign relations and getting support to the partyless Panchayat regime initiated by him after the dissolution of popularly elected government in December 1960.

During the period of King Mahendra, Nepal gave importance in its relations with Japan and accordingly, Nepal established its embassy in Tokyo in 1965. In 1967, King Mahendra sent Crown Prince Birendra to Tokyo for further study (Dahal, 2012, p. 407). Japan also gave its priority in its relations with the land of Lord Buddha and accordingly, it established its embassy in Kathmandu in 1968.

### **Japanese Prince and Princess Hitachi's Visit to Kathmandu February 26, 1970**

Japanese Princess and Princess Hitachi for the second time visited Kathmandu which made the political ties between the two countries more cordial and warmer. Nepal accorded "red carpet welcome" to the Japanese guests in their arrival in Kathmandu (Dahal, 2012, p.7). The important Japanese dignitaries visiting Nepal during King Mahendra's period were Prince Hitachi (1970) who had come to Nepal to attend the wedding ceremony of Crown Prince Birendra.

### **King Mahendra and Queen Ratna's Visit to Tokyo, 1970**

The royal visits further made the relations cordial between the two countries. The royal couples attended the Expo-70 fair International exhibition in Osaka, Japan in 1970. During this informal visit, King Mahendra held informal talks with the ruling political elites in Tokyo in matters of bilateral relations (Dahal, 2012, p. 7).

In course of inaugurating 'Nepal Day' in Expo 70 at Osaka, Japan, King Mahendra on March 30, 1970 stated:

We heard at home with great interest for many days about the great international exposition 70 inaugurated by His Imperial Majesty Emperor Hirohito in the famous and ancient city of Japan. It will be no exaggeration to say that the exposition is a great and unparalleled one by virtue of its

being the latest among its kind so far organised in different parts of the world. This compels one to say that this spectacular progress made by the Japanese does indeed deserve appreciation (HMG, 1970, pp. 11-16).

In a reply speech given by King Mahendra at a banquet given Japanese Prime Minister Eisaku Sato, on March 31, 1970 stated that:

The growing trade and economic relationship between our two countries manifest the successful pursuit of our trade diversification programme. The trade between the two countries has registered manifold and significant increases in the last few years, but there is room for further development. Besides, we hope that our humble participation in the exposition would be of value to us in our development and industrialization efforts and in the promotion of our tourist trade as well.

It gives us further satisfaction to note the close understanding between our two countries that has long prevailed. The great Himalayas inspire both our peoples. Mountaineering in the Himalayas and pilgrimage to Lumbini, the birth place of Lord Buddha in Nepal, highlight the common bond between our two countries (HMG, 1970, pp. 11-16).

In this connection, the Japanese prime minister further stressed the relations by stating that:

We also appreciate the keen interest shown by your country for the betterment and economic advancement of our region and the whole of Asia. We commend your offer and efforts towards sharing the fruits of industrial advancement and technological achievement with other developed countries, particularly of Asia.

We are deeply touched by the warm reception and hospitality of Their Imperial Majesties, the government and people of Japan. On behalf of my own, my wife and entourage I wish to convey to Your Excellency our appreciation for your hospitality and the good wishes of the government and people of Nepal for the continued progress and prosperity of the people of Japan (HMG, 1970, pp. 11-16).

King Mahendra during his regime (1955-72) played very significant role in bringing Nepal and Japan to closer ties. During his period, diplomatic relations between the two countries was established (in 1956) and Permanent embassies were established in Kathmandu and Tokyo. The period also marked the exchanges of high level political visits thus making the relations warmer.

#### **4.5.2 Nepal-Japan Political Relations during the Period of King Birendra (1972-1989)**

The non-party Panchayat polity under King Birendra gave top priority in its foreign relations, particularly with the big and rich countries of the world including Japan. Birendra, since becoming the king of Nepal in 1972, gave

priority in Nepal's relations with Japan which was one of the important Asian and global Powers in international politics. As a crown prince, he was educated in Tokyo University in 1967. During the period of King Birendra, the exchanges of high level visits of the political leaders of the two countries were marked. The important Japanese dignitaries visiting Nepal during this period were Crown Prince Akihito and Princess Michiko (1975) (who had visited Nepal to attend King Birendra's coronation ceremony in Kathmandu); Junko Tabei becoming first women submitter in Mt. Everest (1975); Minister for Foreign Affairs Techiro Hatayama (1977) Japanese Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Kazuo Aichi (1980) and Princes Chichibu (1985), Crown Prince Naruhito (1987).

Similarly, the Nepalese high level political dignitaries visiting Japan from Nepal were- Minister for Foreign Affairs Gyanendra B.Karki (1974), Princess Gyanendra and Dharendra (1975), Foreign Minister Krishna R.Aryal (1977), King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya (state visit (1978), Birendra and Queen Aishwarya (1983), King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya (1985) to attend Tsukuba Expo' 85), Prince Gyanendra (1986), Foreign Minister Shailendra K.Upadhya (1987), Prince Gyanendra (in attending Emperor Hirohito's Funeral Ceremony in Tokyo, 1989), and crown Prince Dipendra (attending enthronement ceremony of Emperor Akihito, 1990). These exchanges of high level political visits between the two countries strengthened the existing bilateral ties between the two countries.

### **King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya's State Visit to Japan May 1978**

The state visit of the King and the Queen Aishwarya to Japan in May 1978 had strengthened the ties between the two countries. During this, the king exchanged ideas on bilateral issues with Japanese Emperor, Prime Minister and other important political dignitaries. The Text of the Joint Communiqué published at the end of King Birendra's state visit to Japan on May 21, 1978, among other things, reaffirmed that "the peace and stability in Asia and the prosperity of the region are of utmost importance to the

maintenance of peace and prosperity of the world" (quoted from Sharma, 2010, pp. 241-250).

In a speech at the presentation ceremony of the emblem of Tokyo University on May 17, 1978, King Birendra highlighted the need of Japan's help in a number of areas. He stated:

We in Nepal have painfully experienced the oil crisis and we are being obliged to look for an alternative. Of the solar, the wind and the water resources, Nepal seems to be particularly blessed with her abundant water resources. But she is handicapped by want of knowledge, lack of technology and the dearth of skill in utilising these resources. This is an area where our own university at home can look for co-operation from countries that excel in these fields.

The energy crisis in Nepal has to be viewed from another angle. Until now, since we have had no energy resource like coal, electricity or natural gas, we have relied heavily upon our forests which having been felled for hundreds of years have led to the problem of soil erosion in a scale that seriously calls our attention. It is interesting that while industrial countries have suffered from the pollution of one kind, the non-industrial nations share their problems of pollution of a different order (Quoted from Sharma, 2010, pp. 241-250).

In a speech given by King Birendra during his state visit to Japan on May 18, 1978 at a banquet hosted in honour of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, King Birendra highlighted the bilateral relations between the two countries and stated:

After having met people of different walks of life, including government leaders, I am pleased to observe that there exists among the people of this land understanding about Nepal, her people, her problems, and her aspirations. At the other end, the Nepalese people have always found it stimulating to cultivate ties with the people of this land. Your experience in national development also inspires us with an example that a nation in unity and determination can become independent, free and prosperous overcoming all constraints in the way of modernization.

The diligence, thrift and skill with which post-war Japan rehabilitated itself through a peaceful pursuit of higher standards of living for its people show that such a policy of peace is worthy of emulation by all countries. Were these resources put to use to produce means of destruction, the miraculous growth of your country's economy would have been a complicated affair. The nexus between peace and the healthy development of a country's economy, which Japan's post-war experience testifies to so eloquently, is at the root of my proposal that Nepal be declared a Zone of Peace. A country which is barely on the road to development can ill-afford, much less squander away, its critical resources in matters other than in accentuating its economic growth. It is this consideration that has prompted us with a desire to institutionalise peace in our country so that we may fully engage ourselves in the pursuit of economic development. I am hopeful that Japanese friends will be guided by the finest in their own post-war experience in their response to my proposal that Nepal be enveloped in a Zone of Peace (Quoted from Sharma, 2010, pp. 241-250).



In a message to the nation on May 26, 1987 in Kathmandu immediately after returning back from his state visit to Japan, King Birendra stated that Nepal had to learn many things from Japan:

The discipline and dedication with which Japan, over the years, achieved success in economic frontiers making her join ranks among the advanced countries of the world have left a lasting impression on us. As an independent country, Nepal has the advantage to learn what suits her best from the experiences of others. While our people expect co-operation from advanced friendly nations in some tangible forms to uplift the Living standard of our people, we must never forget that we must continue to keep self-reliance as an inspiring motto for all time. In this context, we also look forward to a greater exchange in matters of experiences that the developing countries have to offer each other for mutual advantage (Quoted from Sharma, 2010, pp. 241-250).

### **Nepal's Peace Zone Proposal and Japan**

During the period of King Birendra, Japan had recognized and provided unconditional support to King Birendra Zone of Peace (ZoP) proposal put forward by him in his coronation ceremony in 1975.

## **4.6 Nepal-Japan Relations in Post-1990 Periods (1990-2005)**

The year 1990 was particularly important in the political history of Nepal because of the successful mass uprising or nation-wide movement for the restoration of multi-party democracy, civil liberties, and human rights. The royal proclamation on April 8, 1990 put an end to the partyless rule and heralded the restoration of multi-party parliamentary democracy under the system of constitutional monarchy (HMG, MoFA, 1993, p. 1). The collapse of nonparty Panchayat polity under the direct leadership of the monarchy and the restoration of party democracy under constitutional monarchy in 1990 did not make any change in the existing bilateral relations. Japan showed great respect to the changed regime in Nepal and continued to support to Nepal in every aspects of life. The relations between the two royal families and peoples of both countries became warmer and cordial in post-1990 periods. In post-1990 periods also, the bilateral relations remained highly cordial.

### **High Level Visits from Nepal to Japan (1990-2005)**

The exchange of high level visits between the two countries continued during 1990-2005. The Nepalese dignitaries visiting Japan during this period included Acting President of N.C. K.P. Bhattarai (1991), Foreign Minister Prakash C. Lohani (1995), Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Madhav K. Nepal (1995), Prime Minister Girija P. Koirala (1998), National Assembly Chairperson Beni B. Karki (leading a parliamentary delegation in 1998), speaker Tara N. Ranabhat speaker (leading a parliamentary delegation in 2000), Crown Prince Dipendera (2001), Foreign Secretary Madhu R. Acharya (2002), Minister of State for Science and Technology Bhakta B. Balayar (2002), Chief Justice KedarNathUpadhasya (2003), Deputy Speaker Chitra L. Yadav (2003), Minister for Information and Communication Ramesh N. Pandey (2003), Army Chief Pyar Jung Thapa (2004), Chief CIAA Commissioner Surya N. Upadhaya (2004), Crown Prince Paras and Crown Princess Himani (2005). These visits further tightened the existing political relations between the two countries.

### **High Level Political Visits from Japan to Nepal (1990-2005)**

During this period, Japan also gave top priority in its relations with Nepal-Japan received with great interests, the visiting Nepalese dignitaries to Japan in different periods and accordingly, high level dignitaries visited Nepal which, among others, included. Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto (1991), Vice Speaker of House of Representatives Kozo Watanabe (leading parliamentary delegation, 1998), Prime Minister Yashiro Mori (2000), Secretary General of Nepal-Japan Parliamentary Friendship League Wataru Kubo (2001), Former Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto (2002), Parliamentary Secretary for Public Management Home Affairs, Post and Telecommunications, Rokuzaemon Yoshida (2003), Member of the House of Representatives and Secretary General of Japan-Nepal Parliamentary

Friendship League, Tadahiro Matsushita (2004), and Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs Katsuyuki Kawai (2005).

The important Japanese dignitaries visiting Nepal were- Japanese Prince and Princess Akishino (1997), Former Prime Minister Hashimoto (1999), Prime Minister Mori (2000), Former Prime Minister Hashimoto (2002), Secretary General of the Japan-Nepal Parliamentary Friendship League Mr. Matsushita (2004), and Kawai, Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs (2005). The exchanges of visits of the high level political dignitaries to each other's countries further strengthened the existing bilateral ties between them and took the relations to new height.

#### **Japanese Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Shozo Azuma's Formal Visit to Nepal (January 20-21, 1994)**

Out of the several visits of high level political dignitaries to Nepal, the formal visit of Japanese parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Shozo Azuma to Nepal (January 20-21, 1994) is particularly notable in the history of Nepal-Japan relations for several reasons. During his visit, he met King Birendra Prime Minister G.P. Koirala and held talks on matters of mutual interests and bilateral relations. During his visit, the Japanese Vice-Minister also held talks on bilateral relations and economic co-operation between Nepal and Japan and held talks with Mr. Dilendra Prasad Badu, Assistant Minister for Housing and Physical Planning.

His visit is particularly significant in the history of Nepal-Japan economic relations for many reasons. During this visit Vice-Minister Shozo signed and exchanged two separate notes with the GoN under which Japan agreed to provide a grant assistance of Japanese Yen 106 million (equivalent to about Rs. 46.6 million) for the purpose of modernization of Tribhuvan International Airport and a grant assistance of Japanese Yen 51 million (equivalent to about Rs. 22.4 million) for the detailed designing of a new Bagmati bridge at Thapathali, Kathmandu (HMG/N, MoFA, 1994, p. 6).

Japan agreed to provide a grant assistance of Japanese Yen 1864.604 million (about Rs. 840.93 million) to Nepal. Before signing these two separate notes, three separate Exchange of Notes to this effect were signed between Japan in the Ministry of Finance on November 29, 1993.

Under The first Exchange of notes, Japan agreed to provide a grant assistance of Japanese Yen 463 million (about Rs. 208.81 million) for the implementation of River Training Project. The River Training Project was being launched by Nepal in different parts of the country through the Department of Irrigation since 1987 under the grant assistance of the Japan. The grant received from Japan was used for the purchase of equipment and galvanized iron wire and services necessary for the transportation (HMG/N, MoFA, 1994, p. 6).

The second Exchange of Notes, provided a grant assistance of Japanese Yen 842 million (about Rs. 379.74 million) for construction of Institutional Facilities of Water-Induced Disaster Prevention Technical centre, which was being implemented jointly by the Ministry of Water Resources of Nepal and the Japan International Co-Operation Agency (JICA) since 1991 (HMG/N, MoFA, 1994, p. 7).

Japan's such generous aid to Nepal without any political interest attached it played significant role in the all-round economic development of Nepal in a number of ways. This project had come specific aims and objectives to achieve, according to which it intended to strengthen capability of Nepal cope with water induced disaster through technology development, provision of training of Nepalese personnel and establishment of data base. The grant was to be used for multi-purposes including the purchaser of products and services necessary for the construction of main building, a trainees' dormitory, a technology development building, a garage for heavy equipment and other related facilities for the centre (HMG/N, MoFA, 1994, p. 7).

The second exchange of notes, in particular played significant role in the development of economic infrastructures including the construction of public government buildings.

The third Exchange of Notes agreed to provide a grant assistance of Japanese Yen 559.604 million (about Rs. 252.38 million) in lieu of repayment of the principal and the accrued interest of the outstanding loan. It was the second portion of the Debt Relief Measures in the Japanese fiscal year 1993. The grant assistance was utilized for the purchase of development goods (HMG/N, MoFA, 1997, p. 7).

These Exchange of Notes were signed by their respective authorities by Dr. Thakur Nath Pant, Secretary, Ministry of Finance, and Mr. Chuichi Ito, Ambassador of Japan, on behalf of Government of Nepal and the government of Japan respectively (HMG/N, MoFA, 1997, p. 7).

#### **Prime G.P. Koirala's Visit to Japan, November 1998**

Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala paid an official visit to Japan in November 1998 where he was given an audience by His Majesty Emperor Akihito, exchanged views with Japanese Prime Minister Obuchi discussing bilateral issues and moves to strengthen the ties between the two countries. He also met other political leaders including former Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, Prime Minister of Japan; Yoshiro Mori also visited Nepal in August 2000 as the first Japanese Prime Minister to visit Nepal. During his visit in Nepal, he met King Birendra and other political leaders of Nepal, including Prime Minister Koirala, Prime Minister Mori expressed his desire to continue Japan's active support to all round development of Nepal.

The century old contacts between the two countries became more cordial. The recent exchanges of visits by politicians and prominent people of both the countries strengthened the existing relationship between the two countries.

Similarly, the important Nepalese dignitaries during this period also visited Japan which further made the relations warmer and cordial. The important Nepalese dignitaries visiting Japan from Nepal were- Former Prime

Minister Deuba (1998), Prime Minister Koirala (1998), Foreign Minister Bastola (2000), Crown Prince Dependra (2001) and Crown Prince Paras and Crown Princess Himani (2005) and Foreign Minister Pandey (2005 (Embassy of Japan, Kathmandu, official website).

#### **4.7 Hashimoto's Visit to Nepal, 5-8 January, 1994**

In post-1990 period, high level Japanese dignitaries had visited Nepal which had strengthened the existing bilateral ties between the two countries. In this context, the visit of Hashimoto, the Chairperson of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan accompanied by Dr. Toshiro Murase, President of Japan Medical Association, from January 5-8, 1994 was particularly important. He met King Birendra and Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala in their offices. During his meeting with Hashimoto, Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala expressed gratitude to the people and the government of Japan for their continued support in Nepal's development as well as for the assistance to the relief and rehabilitation activities in the wake of last year's floods and landslides. Prime Minister Koirala also appreciated the Japan Medical Association for undertaking the Primary Health Project at Khopasi. Hashimoto had come to Nepal to attend the inaugural ceremony of Primary Health Project at Khopasi (HMG/N, MoFA, 1994, p. 7).

#### **Celebration of 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Nepal and Japan (September 1, 1996)**

The celebration of 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Nepal and Japan was one of the important events in the history of Nepal Japan relations. Both the countries had celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in September, 1996 by organizing various functions in Kathmandu. The diplomatic relations between Nepal and Japan were established on September 1, 1956. Ever since the establishment of diplomatic ties the relations, the two countries have remained warm, friendly and cordial (HMG/N, MoFA, 1996, pp. 9-14).

#### **4.8 Prime Minister SherBahadurDeuba's Message to Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto (September 1, 1996)**

During this occasion Nepalese Prime SherBahadurDeuba in a message addressed to the Japanese, extended warm congratulations and sincere felicitations to the Japanese Prime Minister and through him to the Government and people of Japan. Referring to the age-old historical bonds of friendship subsisting between the countries, Premier Deuba further said,

Nepal and Japan established their formal diplomatic relations only forty years ago, but the friendly interactions between our people have historical roots and dates back to ancient times. With the spread of Buddhism centuries ago and Lumbini, as the birth place of Lord Buddha, Nepal has been a pilgrimage centre for the people of Japan. Besides, similar cultural and religious values have also helped in developing closer contacts between the peoples of our two countries (HMG/N, MoFA, 1996, pp. 9-14).

Expressing satisfaction at the remarkable development in bilateral relations over the decades, based on mutual trust, respect, understanding and fruitful co-operation, Premier Deuba further stated in his message that Nepal-Japan relations reflect the testimony of an ideal friendship.

The commonality of monarchical institutions and parliamentary democracy in both of our countries have further helped in nurturing our age-old ties. The high level exchange of visits between both countries have significantly contributed in strengthening the bonds of our friendly relations (HMG/N, MoFA, 1996, pp. 9-14).

Prime Minister Deuba further stated that Nepal-Japan relation embraced a very wide range of development activities and in recent years. Japan has emerged on the top of the list of donor countries to Nepal. Prime Minister Deuba further expressed happiness and said that Nepal feels it as a reflection of true friendship and highly values the continued interest of Japan towards Nepal's efforts for development (HMG/N, MoFA, 1996, pp. 9-14).

#### **4.9 Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's Message to the Nepalese Prime Minister Deuba of Nepal (September 1996)**

On that occasion, the Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, replying to the message sent by Nepalese counterpart Prime Minister Deuba,

sent a message to Prime Minister Deuba in which he extended his warm and sincere congratulations to his Nepalese counterpart on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations and expressed his best wishes for his health well-being and prosperity of the Nepalese people.

Stating that the exchange of high level visits have made significant contribution to further deepening the bilateral relations, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said, "since the establishment of diplomatic ties in September 1956, Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress and the Crown Prince of Japan have paid visits to Nepal, and similarly, Their Majesties King BirendraBirBikram Shah Dev and Her Majesty the Queen of the Kingdom of Nepal as well as members of Nepalese royal family have visited Japan many times. I am particularly glad to note that His Majesty King Birendra had once studied at the University of Tokyo.

Prime Minister Hashimoto had expressed happiness at the growing interaction between the two countries in political economic and cultural fields. He said in that the dedication of Japan-Nepal Society and Japan-Nepal Parliamentarians Friendship League on Japanese side and that of Nepal-Japan Friendship Cultural Association on Nepalese side have solidified the bilateral collaboration.

In addition, Japanese economic co-operation staff members are frequently visiting Nepal and more than seventy members of Japan Overseas Co-operation Volunteers are currently engaged in technical assistance throughout Nepal. At the same time, more than a hundred Japanese NGOS presently in Nepal are devoted to expanding grass-roots co-operation and friendship. Ever since my official goodwill visit to your country in October 1980, I myself have visited Nepal several times, including my participation in a conference and a mountaineering team to Mt. Everest (HMG/N, MoFA, 1996, pp. 9-14).

Prime Minister Hashimoto's message clearly outlined Japan's importance to its relations with Nepal. He outlined the various dimensions of the bilateral relations between the countries. The exchanges of such messages at prime Ministerial level undoubtedly strengthened the existing bilateral relations between the two countries.



On that occasion, a number of programs were organized in Kathmandu in which Prime Minister Deuba, Foreign Minister Prakash C. Lohani, the charged affairs of the Japanese Embassy of Kathmandu actively participated outlining the importance of the relations between the two countries.

#### **Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba's Address**

Addressing a formal program in Kathmandu on September 11, 1996 Prime Deuba stated that Nepal as a developing country lacks infrastructure for development and the friendly country Japan's technical and economic co-operation in this direction would be noteworthy. Nepal is in need to optimize its limited resources with highly skilled manpower for this the Nepalese manpower trained in Japan has made a significant contribution. Besides, in the forty years of diplomatic relations and even since beyond that, mutual togetherness and cultural bondage has been improved between the people of the two countries (HMG/N, MoFA, 1996, pp. 9-14).

On that occasion the Charged Affaires of the Embassy of Japan Mr. Hojun Kikuchi stated that the relations between Japan and Nepal have been strengthening and flourishing over the years with cultural exchanges, economic and technical co-operation and exchange of visits by the imperial and royal families of the two countries. Referring to the training facilities being provided by the Japanese government under its technical assistance programme, Mr. Kikuchi observed that Nepalese students had studied in Japan and others had received various trainings there. Similarly, many Japanese volunteers have been working in Nepal. "Such exchanges at different levels have provided an opportunity to share knowledge, expertise and culture between the people of the two countries" (HMG/N, MoFA, 1996, pp. 9-14).

#### **Prime Minister G.P. Koirala's Visit to Japan, 3-7 November 1998**

Prime Minister G.P. Koirala's visit to Japan (3-7 November 1998) is one of the important events in the history of bilateral relations between the two countries. Before his visit, two Prime Ministers from Nepal- T.P.

Acharya(Oct, 1956), S.P. Deuba (1998) had already visited Japan. During this visit Japan, Prime Minister Koirala met Japanese Emperor Akihito, and also had a meeting with Prime Minister KeizoObuchi discussing bilateral issues and moves to strengthen the ties between the two countries in future. He also met many other Japanese political leaders including former Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, an avid lover of the Himalayas who had visited Nepal several times.

### **Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori's Visit to Nepal (August, 2000)**

Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori's was the first Japanese Prime to visit Nepal. He visited Nepal during August 2000. Prime Minister Koirala welcomed Prime Minister Mori upon his arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu during his visit to Patan Durbar Square.

During this visit, he met King Birendra and other political leaders of Nepal. Both the Prime Ministers expressed their views on different bilateral issues. In his meeting with Prime Minister Koirala, Prime Minister Mori expressed his desire to continue Japan's active support to the development activities of Nepal.

The century old contacts and the recent exchange of visits by politicians and prominent people have further strengthened the relationships which exist between the two countries.

### **Titles/Medals to Senior Japanese Ministers and University Professors, 2002**

The conferring of title and medals to respected Japanese citizens has also improved the existing relations between the two countries. In this context King Gyanendra on the occasion of his 56 birthday (July 2002), conferred *PrasiddhaPrabalGorkhaDakshinabahu* on Senior Vice-Minister Tadahiro Matsushita, and Wataru also conferred *GorkhaDakshinbahu* on Prof. ShimejiFurutani. Chairman of the Board of the Osaka Sangyo University, Osaka, and Prfo.Hiroshi Ishii of the Institute for the Study of Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, Tokyo University (HMG/N, MoFA, 1996, p. 40).

During 1990-2005, the political relations between the two countries remained highly cordial the exchanges of visits further tightened the bilateral ties and serviced as the background for future bilateral relations.

#### **4.10 Nepal-Japan Relations in Post-April 2006**

The year 2006 marked a watershed in the democratic history of Nepal. The 19-day April 2006 national wide movement led to the termination of direct rule of King Gyanendra and the restoration of multi-party democracy, civic liberties of human rights of the people in Nepal. The emergence of CPN-Maoist as the important political force in Nepal and its active participation in the democratic constitution making process led to the declaration of Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2007, which among other things, declared the date for the election of Constituent Assembly (CA) which was to be given the task of democratic constitution within a period of two years.

Japan in post-2006 days continued to support the democratically elected government of Nepal and further continued its financial and other supports to Nepal. The exchanges of high level political visits of both the countries continued in post-April 2006 periods also.

The important Japanese political dignitaries visiting Nepal from Japan included Yasuhisa Shiozaki, Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs (2006), Takahide Kimura, Senior Vice-Minister for Defense (2007), Osamu Uno, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Parliamentarians Taakahido Ito and Gaku Hashimoto (2008), Kishi, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Defense (2009), Matsumoto, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Defense (2011), Gemba, Minister for Foreign Affairs (2012) and Kihara, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs (2014).

Similarly, the important Nepalese dignitaries visiting Japan from Nepal included Finance Minister Dr. Ramsharan Mahat (2007), Foreign Minister Mrs. Shahana Pradhan (2007), Finance Minister Dr. Babu Ram

Bhattarai(2009), Minister for Labour and Transport Management Alam (2009), Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation Bhandari (2010), Minister for General Administration Shrestha (2010), Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shrestha (2012), CEO of the Investment Board Pant (2012), Finance Minister Pun (2012), Minister for Youth and Sports and Minister for Peace and Reconstruction Shrestha (2013).

Nepal-Japan relations in post-republican era (2008) also remained warmer. Japan continued its support even in post-April 2008 days when Nepal declared itself as a republic. During the period of monarchy, the relations between the monarchs of two countries were very cordial. Monarchy has become one of the important instruments in establishing and improving the relations between the two countries. In post-monarchy days also the political, economic, educational and cultural/religious relations remained cordial.

### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of the Diplomatic Relations between the two Countries, 2006 Celebration of Golden Jubilee in Nepal to Promote of Nepal-Japan Diplomatic Relations**

In order to give importance to the establishment of diplomatic relations with Japan, Nepal in 2006 celebrated Golden Jubilee to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> year of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. On that occasion, a talk program was organized on the issue in which the Japanese Ambassador to Nepal, H.E. Mr. Tsutomu Hiraoka stated that relations between the two countries "could be said as relations based on good will and mutual respect" (Bagale, 2011, pp. 47-50).

### **Japanese Parliamentary Vice-Minister Kihara's Visit to Nepal, May 7-8, 2014**

Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, in charge of the South Asia Region, Mr. Seiji Kihara, was on a two-day visit to Nepal on

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2014. During his stay in Kathmandu, he paid courtesy calls to Rt. Honorable President Dr. Ram BaranYadav, Rt. Honorable Prime Minister Mr. SushilKoirala and Honorable Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. MahendraPandey. During the meeting, both the sides discussed the progress of the constitution writing and consolidation of democracy and also exchanged their views about current political issues, bilateral relations, mutual co-operation, and regional and international interests. On the occasion, Vice-Minister Kihara expressed his commitment that Japan would provide support to make the upcoming 18<sup>th</sup> SAARC Summit successful.

On 7<sup>th</sup> May, Nepali Congress Vice-President Ram Chandra Poudel, as former Chairman of Nepal-Japan Parliamentary Friendship Association, hosted a welcome dinner in honor of Mr. Kihara where he met leaders of various political parties and exchanged views on reactivating exchanges between parliament members of Japan and Nepal. Before his departure, Mr. Kihara also inspected the National Tuberculosis Center and the Kathmandu-Bhaktapur Road, which were constructed in 1987 and 2010 respectively under Japanese grant assistance (INFOJAPAN, Vol. 38, August 2014, n.p.).

### **Nepal-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Tokyo, October 2014**

During his visit to Japan Nepalese Foreign Minister Mahendra B. Pandey(October 5-9, 2014) met his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida, who was visiting Japan upon the Japanese invitation.

During this meeting, the Japanese Foreign Minister Kishidastated that Japan and Nepal have maintained traditionally friendly relations since the establishment of diplomatic relations and he wanted to further strengthen cooperation on policy matters as well. Expressing his views on the establishment of democracy in Nepal, Minister Kishidaexpressed Japan's intention to continue to support Nepal's efforts in future; Minister Kishida thanked Minister Pandey for visiting Hiroshima and offering flowers at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial. He stated that he would like to cooperate with

Nepal in the field of disarmament and nonproliferation. Both Japan and Nepal are regarded as lovers of peace in international politics.

In response, Minister Pandey expressed his gratitude for the invitation to visit Japan and said that this was the first time for him to visit Hiroshima and that he reaffirmed the importance of peace. His visit to Japan as he stated had been meaningful because it had allowed him to see Japan's outstanding progress in science and technology. He further expressed that the Constituent Assembly members were now discussing to formulate a new constitution in Nepal and the constitution would form the foundation for the development of the nation.

Foreign Minister Kishida expressed his strong hope for progress in the process of formulating a new constitution in Nepal. He reminded that Japan once dispatched the Japan Self-Defense Forces personnel to the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) and it intended to provide support for initiatives aimed at establishing democracy in Nepal, including assistance in the development of the legal system. Minister Kishida also proposed setting up a political dialogue between Ministries of Foreign Affairs of both countries (website of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan).

Regarding Japan's economic cooperation to Nepal, Minister Kishida expressed that Japan would continue to support Nepal's sustainable and balanced economic growth through the development of infrastructure such as transportation and energy. In response, Minister Pandey appreciated Japan's support in areas such as infrastructure, education and hydroelectric power generation and expressed his hope for Japan's continuous support in agriculture, tourism and the development of infrastructure among others.

Foreign Minister Kishida stressed and stated people-to-people exchange, and stated that he was willing to invite football-related people from Nepal as part of "Sport for Tomorrow", a program to contribute to the international community through sports. Minister Pandey in this connection

stated the bilateral relations have to be strengthened through exchanges in various fields, including business and academic, in addition to governmental exchanges. This exchange would lead to a stronger bilateral relationship.

The history of Nepal-Japan relations goes back to 19<sup>th</sup> century when Japanese monks visited Nepal on their way to Tibet. The political relations with Japan became closer after the two countries established diplomatic relations on September 1956. Japan was the 7<sup>th</sup> country to establish such relations with Nepal. During the time of King Tribhuvan, small activities were done in this direction. King Mahendra, who is regarded as the architect of modern Nepal's foreign policy, in course of reducing Nepal's over dependency on India, stressed the policy of diversifying Nepal's foreign relations and started the policies of establishing diplomatic relations with maximum countries of the world. In this connection, his coronation ceremony in 1955 became the best platform to prepare a background for the establishment of diplomatic relations with countries of the world including Japan.

King Mahendra(1955-1971) gave top priority in its with Japan and accordingly established diplomatic relations with Japan in 1956, established permanent embassy in Tokyo and became instrumental in setting up Japanese embassy in Kathmandu. King Mahendra sent his son Crown Prince Birendra to study in Japan and he visited Japan and welcomed visiting Japanese prince and princess in Nepal.

King Birendra(1971-1989) also gave priority in Nepal's relations with Japan and visited Japan. The institutions of monarchy of both the countries became instrumental in promoting and strengthening the bilateral ties. Japan also provided unconditional support to the ZoP proposal, put forwarded by King Birendra in his coronation ceremony in 1975.

In post-1990 periods, the democratic Nepal gave importance to its relations with Japan and accordingly, the Nepalese high level dignitaries, including Prime Minister G.P.Koirala visited Japan. The Japanese Prime

Minister Mori's visit in this connection can be considered as the landmark event in the history of bilateral relations.

In post-April 2006 and more specifically in post-April 2008 days, the elected governments of Nepal gave importance to its relations with Japan. The exchanges of visits at political level can be considered as important events in the history of bilateral relations. In post-republic days, the bilateral relations further improved another exchange of visited took the relations to new height.

It seems like that the numbers of higher profile visits between the two countries have not occurred, and economic aid to Nepal from Japan has also gone down. Since 2006, proves that balanced relationships have been maintained. Since the abolishment of monarchy and Nepal becoming Republic 2008, the relationships between the two countries in post 2008 days have been very coordinal and Japanese aid to Nepal has also been not affected.



## **CHAPTER V**

### **NEPAL-JAPANECONOMIC RELATIONS**

In the present context Japan is one of the leading donors in the overall development of Nepal. Japan started providing economic assistance to Nepal in 1960 and began to mature in 1970's onwards. Japan in the present context is the premier bilateral major donor and has supported Nepal in a number of its socio-cultural dimensions in transforming them (Sigdel, 2014, pp. 25-26).

The economic dimension of Nepal-Japan relation, thus, is one of the important aspects of overall bilateral relations, without which the study would be incomplete. Nepal-Japan economic relations, for connivance, can be broadly classified into economic relations before 1956 or pre-1956 periods and post-1956 periods, though the massive economic aid activities started only after 1956 days.

But Nepal-Japan economic relations in pre-1956 periods are also no less important. Even before the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between the two countries, Japanese citizens have trade relations with of Nepal in one way or the others. During this period, Japan had contributed much to reduce the natural calamities and support for recovering damage.

During the Rana period 1936, Syun-Ichi-Amanume visited Nepal to survey damages caused by the great earthquake in 1934.

Nepal-Japan economic relations in post-1956 periods started massively in post-1956 days. In post-1956 days, Japan has been involved in a wide range of development activities in Nepal in different ways and Japan currently is the major bilateral donor providing economic assistance

to Nepal for nearly half a century. Japan has been constantly supporting in the economic development of Nepal since 1969. The Japanese grants are being utilized mainly for human resources development; agricultural development, development of economic infrastructures, environmental conservation in economic and social sector. "Japan a close friend and sincere development partner of Nepal, is committed to extend all possible assistance to help Nepal in her endeavors for socio-economic development" (INFOJAPAN, Vol. 38, August 2014, p. 3).

Nepal Trade with Japan in Exports is 962 million rupee (approx. \$ 11 million) (ready-made clothes, paper products, carpet, fabric) (2012/2013) and the imports is 4.6 billion rupee (approx. \$ 53.5 million) (steel products, machinery, industrial products, automotive parts) (2012/2013). The direct investment from Japan is 199 million rupee (approx. \$ 2.3 million) (2012/2013).

Japan's Economic Cooperation to Nepal includes list of exchange of notes; Loans: 79 billion yen (up to 2013); Grants: 197.4 billion yen (up to 2013) and technical cooperation: 63.6 billion yen (up to 2012) (<http://www.nepalembassyjapan.org>)

Nepal-Japan economic relations in post-1956 periods, for convenience, can be sub grouped into Japan's ODA policy mission to Nepal, Japan's support to the development of power sector, ODA loan assistance to Nepal, Japan's economic assistance, foreign direct investment, Japan's technical support, food and human security support and trade between them.

## **5.1 Nepal-Japan Economic Relations**

Nepal's economic foreign policy is basically concerned with the promotion of its economic development through foreign aid from foreign friendly countries. It also intends to promote trade and commercial interests the nation. Moreover, promotion of international cooperation for water resources mobilization (e.g. harnessing hydropower); promotion of

trade, tourism, FDI and foreign employment and promoting economic diplomacy have been the important aspects of bilateral relations. Moreover in the changed political context, it is essential to determine and promote fixing up national politics; building political consensus; getting domestic policies right; invigoration of economic diplomacy; promotion of regionalism and multilateralism; seeking for more roles in international arena; prepare competitive human resource; educate the people about the foreign policy goal of Nepal and its diplomatic practices (Aryal, Subedi and Thapa, 2010, p. 19).

Nepal has certain trade and commercial interest, which among other things, include diversification of commercial relations with many countries of the world and promote its trade with them. Nepal's relations with the trading partners like India, China, the US, Germany, Japan, Singapore etc. are in the present context further growing on the light of increasing interdependency. In this context, Nepal has developed a policy of attaching much importance to those countries with which its economic and commercial interests are best served. Nepal's growing ties with its trade partners and donor countries and extending hopping amounts of development from them cooperation are its strong plus points in this direction. In course of Nepal's framing foreign policy, Nepal has to focus on its further consolidation and strengthening its relations with friendly countries promote commercial and economic interests promotion political and other relations the promotion of economic diplomacy is the need of the time and situation (Aryal, Subedi and Thapa, 2010, p. 22).

Nepal intends to achieve all types of foreign aid without with any political interest attached to it. The acceptances of foreign aid, thus, have become one of the important aspects of its economic foreign policy. Nepal has

established diplomatic relation with many countries of world and it has also accepted such, loan from those states, including Japan.

In post-1990 days Nepal adopted policies of open market economy with necessary legal and administrative measures and gave high priority to integration of Nepalese economy into regional and global economies and consequently Nepal also became the member of WTO. Nepal emphasized economic diplomacy in order to mainstream objectives of socio-economic development into foreign policy objectives. Multilateral Economic Affairs Division (MEAD) was formed within Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of programs relating to economic diplomacy; promotion of Nepal's interest in economic affairs of multilateral international institutions; promotion of national interests in WTO as well as the issues of LDCs and LLDCs; formulation of programs in consultation with different agencies of Government of Nepal and private sectors and coordinate on, and communicate with, Nepalese missions abroad.

In this connection the High Level Economic Diplomacy Implementation and Monitoring Committee under the chairmanship of Foreign Minister was formed which can give direction to other mechanisms responsible for economic diplomacy. This was the highest monitoring mechanism. In some cases the Focal Points consisting of senior officials of the sectoral ministries were found which used to prepare for the meeting of the high level committee. MEAD acts as the secretariat of these mechanisms. As the private sectors are included in the mechanisms, their role in economic diplomacy is also crucial.

The following areas have been a number of area including Development Cooperation, Foreign Direct Investment, Promotion of Tourism, Promotion of Export Trade, Promotion of Foreign Employment were identified in economic diplomacy. The foreign mission of Nepal working

abroad were given new responsibility to promote economic diplomacy (<http://www.mofa.gov.np/en/economic-diplomacy-108.html>Economic)

Japan has been providing economic aid and assistance to the least developed and the developing countries of the world. The government of Japan has its own way of providing aid to these countries. Its aid mechanisms have certain specific characteristics

Japan has been providing Official Development Assistance (ODA) to these countries. On August 2003, Japan revised its ODA charter which emphasized on "poverty reduction," "sustainable growth," "addressing global issues" and "peace-building and other issues." In this context, it has considered current international development issues, such as gap between the rich and the poor, ethnic and religious conflicts, armed conflicts, terrorism, suppression of human rights and democracy, environmental issues, infectious diseases and other burning issues of the day. It considers Asia as one of the priority regions for economic assistance. Japan has extended its ODA through various schemes including grant aid, loans and technical assistance.

Grant Aid is one of the important tool under which Japan provides Grant Aid for General Projects, Non-Project Grant Aid, Grant Aid for Debt Relief, Cultural Grant Aid, Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security projects, Grant Aid for Underprivileged Farmers (2KR) Food Aid (KR), Emergency Grant Aid, etc.

Loans are other important instruments under which Japan used to provide ODA loans. The ODA loans, also known as yen loans, extend funds for development for long periods at low interest to least developed and developing countries. Japan used to obtain the request proposals from the recipient nations in their fiscal year basis based on their need and requirement in accordance with the priority areas of the ODA assistance. On the basis of the above mentioned charter, objectives and priority

issues, Japan determines whether to accept the request for extending ODA assistance. JICA was reborn as New JICA from October, 2008; JBIC (Yen Loan window) was merged to JICA. Now, New JICA operates all ODA-bilateral and multi-lateral assistance through Grant, loan and technical co-operation. But the budget for bilateral loans is controlled by the Ministry of Finance, and aid through international organizations is handled by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Finance (OECCD, 2014, pp. 35-40).

Technical Assistance is another instrument for and under which Japan dispatches Experts and Volunteers, implement training programs for capacity building of human resources and conduct Development Studies and Technical Co-operation Projects, and provide various equipment.

Contribution through multilateral institutions such as UN Agencies and multi-lateral finance institutions are other instruments.

The JICA is the overseas development agency of Japan acting as an executive agency of Japan's official Development Aid (ODA) and is assisting developing and least developed countries becoming self-reliant in pursuing their socio-economic development. On the basis of these objectives, JICA has been operating in Nepal since decades in different forms and strategies. At the beginning, it was called Overseas Technical Co-operation Agency (OTCA) which was renamed in 1974 as Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) and became one of the largest bilateral donors in Nepal by 1997. JICA in 2008 merged with Japan Bank of International Co-operation (JBIC) (an organization responsible to execute Japanese ODA loan) and became the largest bilateral aid agency in the world to implement Japanese aid through, technical co-operation, grant aid and ODA loan (Pokharel and Gautam, 2014, pp. 39-40).

In post-1956 days the Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) mission used to visit Nepal occasionally to assess the

implementation aspects of Japanese co-operation related to various development projects in Nepal. This type of mission has been instrumental in promoting understanding and economic co-operation between the two countries. Such missions visited Nepal in 1991, 1992 and 1993 (HMG, MoFA, 1993, pp. 55-57).

Japan's ODA Policy to Nepal has some specific economic characteristics ([www.np.emb-Japan.go.jp/relation.pdf](http://www.np.emb-Japan.go.jp/relation.pdf)). The ODA mission who visited Nepal in May 1993 agreed to provide grant assistance for the on-going five projects and send survey teams to carry out the feasibility studies of potential new projects. The Official Development Assistance (ODA) Charter (2003), formulated in 1992 and revised in 2003 clearly intends to "contribute to the peace and development of the international community, and thereby to help ensure Japan's own security and prosperity" (Sharma, 2010, p. 115). In course of achieving the above stated objectives and giving economic assistance to developing countries, the ODA Charter has outlined five basic policies and four priority areas (Khanal "Nepal's relations with Japan in [www.biiss.org.seminar%202012/papers/rabindrakhanal-nepal.pdf](http://www.biiss.org.seminar%202012/papers/rabindrakhanal-nepal.pdf)).

Japan would "support the developing countries in their efforts to develop human resources, institutions and the socio-economic infrastructures on the basis of their own development strategy; develop human security against conflicts, disasters and infectious diseases to promote human dignity; ensure that the development assistance reaches to the most vulnerable groups of the society; utilize the Japanese experience in development process in terms of technology and human resources; and work in coordination with the international and regional organizations and other donor countries so that the people of the recipient country will be benefited. Similarly, the Charter has prioritized poverty reduction; trade and investment opportunities; dealing with the global issues like climate

change, infectious disease, population, food and energy crisis, terrorism, drugs; and conflict prevention and peace building. The terms and conditions of the Japanese ODA has been revised and discussed from time to time in order to suit the Japanese interest in the recipient countries" (Khanal, 2012).

Japan has been providing ODA support to Nepal in a number of areas where large amount of money has been invested.

The picture of total Japanese ODA support to Nepal during Japanese FY (1969-2010) can be broadly summarized in three headings:

**Table-5.1: Japan ODA Support to Nepal during JFY 1969-2010**

| Type of Assistance     | Amount in JPY¥ | Remarks                 |
|------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Grant of Assistance    | 187,560,477    | Commitment based on E/N |
| Technical Co-operation | 59,738,000     | Disbursement figure     |
| Loan Assistance        | 63,889,000     | Commitment based on E/N |

**Source:** Embassy of Japan in Nepal, quoted from Pokharel and Gautam, 2014, p. 40.

Japan has played significant role in the building and extension of road networks in Nepal. In this context Japanese co-operation for Banepa-Sindhuli road networks is of high importance in Nepal.

Japan has played very significant role in the development of power sector in Nepal which has among other things played significant role in the generation/supply of electricity in Nepal. The ODA loan assistance in this direction is one of the aspects.



## **5.2 Japanese Economic Aid and Assistance to Nepal**

In the field of economic co-operation, Japan occupies a prominent position by being the largest bilateral donor to Nepal in recent years. The presence of a number of Japanese overseas volunteers and experts in Nepal and the growing number of Japanese tourists visiting Nepal has immensely contributed to strengthening understanding and goodwill between the two peoples. Sizeable contribution by Japanese Buddhists for the development of Lumbini has added another dimension to Nepal-Japan relations (HMG, MoFA, 1993, pp. 55-57).

Japan has provided development assistance in various fields. The range and diversity of Japanese co-operation have encompassed such areas like strengthening of transportation and other public works, enhancement of the primary health care system, drinking water supply projects to urban and semi-urban centers, rural telecommunications network, hydro-electricity generation, river control projects, agriculture development, and supply of fertilizers and development of Lumbini. Similarly, Japan has also provided assistance in the field of cultural preservation and contributed building materials for educational establishments. The area of co-operation includes training of Nepalese technicians, dispatch of experts, survey teams, volunteers and financing the projects (HMG, MoFA, 1993, pp. 55-57).

Japan is one of the key donor countries to provide generous assistance in Nepal's economic development. Japan's economic assistance to Nepal consists of three components- (i) Grant Assistance, (ii) Credit Assistance and (iii) Technical Assistance.

Technical assistance is provided for the service of experts, manpower training, fellowships and equipment. Japan is also making available service of volunteers, the form of technical assistance to meet

Nepal's medium level technical manpower. There are 83 volunteers working in different sectors at present.

Financial Assistance is provided both for specific project financing and program support. Under financial assistance commodity aid is also included. The sale proceeds of the commodity such as fertilizer can be used by Government of Nepal to finance local cost of Japan aided projects.

Japan's economic co-operation has been utilized in the fields of agriculture, health, rural water supply, radio transmission, electricity generation, ground water development education, transportation and the development of skilled and trained manpower (HMG, MoFA, n.d., pp. 25-27).

The grant assistance to Nepal is one of the important characteristics of Japanese aid to Nepal under which the former directly provides cash assistance to the latter. Japan has provided such support to a number of projects in Nepal.

Japan agreed to provide a grant assistance of Japanese Yen 5217,752 million (about Rs. 2400.16 million) to Nepal for six different projects namely Reconstruction of Bridges (Yen 433 million), Expansion of Kanti Children's Hospital (Yen 1367 million), Kathmandu Water Supply Facility Improvement Project (Yen 1286 million), Extension and Reinforcement of Power Transmission and Distribution System in Kathmandu Valley (Yen 752 million), Debt Relief Measures in Japanese Fiscal Year 1993 (Yen 479.752 million) and Increase of Food Production Under KR II Programme (Yen 900 million). Six separate Notes were exchanged to this effect between Government of Nepal and the government of Japan on June 29, 1993 in Kathmandu (HMG, MoFA, 1993, pp. 55-57).

On October 15, 1993, the Japanese government agreed to provide a grant assistance of Rs. 346 million (Yen 748 million) for the repair and

maintenance of Kulekhani I and II power stations. Similarly, the notes were exchanged between Government of Nepal and the government of Japan on November 29, 1993 regarding grant assistance to be provided by the Japanese government during the fiscal year 1993. Under these agreements, a total amount of Rs. 840.93 million (Yen 1864.6 million) was to be provided by the Japanese government for the implementation of (i) River Training Project, (ii) Construction of Institutional Facilities of Water Induced Disaster Prevention Technical Centre, and (iii) Debt Relief Measures (HMG, MoFA, 1993, pp. 55-57)

Japan's assistance in Nepal included assistance for the project improving livelihood of farmers through environmentally, harmonizing agriculture in the hill districts (<http://www.np.emb-Japan.go.jp>).

The Japanese economic aid and assistance for convenience can be categorized under the different sub-headings, including Japanese grant in aid, technical assistance, cultural grant aid ODA loan support, Japanese soft loan to Nepal, Japan's commodity assistance to Nepal, Nepal-Japan economic ventures.

Japanese Grant in Aid is one of the aspects of Japan's economic assistance to Nepal. Some of the major projects which were completed under Japanese aid are Kathmandu Valley Power Distribution, System and Improvement Project, Teaching Hospital, Kanti Children's Hospital, Improvement in Load Dispatching Center, Construction of Food Storage, National Tuberculosis Centre, Expansion of Radio Broadcasting Network, Construction of Bridges in Kathmandu Valley, Kathmandu Bus Terminal, Improvement of Transport Capacity, Water-Induced Disaster Preventing Centre, Kathmandu Water Supply Facility and Thapathali Bridge (HMG, MoFA, September 1996, p. 12).

Similarly, there are some on-going projects in Nepal under Japanese grant in aid which include Rural Telecommunication Project, Construction of Primary Schools, Horticulture Development Project and Community Forester Development Project (HMG, MoFA, September 1996, p. 12).

Japan has played significant role in the extension of transportation networks in Nepal, besides Japanese Co-operation for Banepa-Sindhuli Road Networks performing a number of activities.

Japan extended a grant assistance of Japanese Yen 118.0 million, equivalent to Rs. 62.0 million for the detail of design of Dhulikhel-Nepalthok 51 km. stretch of section four of Banepa-Sindhuli road. The basic design of that section of road was completed with Japanese aid before Nepal and Japan on Sept. 3, 1996 exchanged the letter to that effect.

The bridges, causeways, access road along the 37 km. Bardibas-Sindhuli Bazar section of Banepa-Sindhuli road are currently under construction with Japanese grant in June 1996. Most of the road has been completed and few km. are yet to be completed.

On 16, 1995, Japan has provided Nepal seventy-five million yen for this, and on June 18, 1996, it had provided Nepal two billion one hundred and twelve million yen for the detail design study and the execution of the project for construction of Sindhuli Road (Section 1: Bardibas-Sindhuli Bazar) which was the first project with the goal of formulating road linkages between Dhulikhel and Bardibas, thus linking Dhulikhel with East West High Way of Nepal. This road linking projects had the intention facilitating transportation between Kathmandu valley and Eastern Southern plains especially for transportation of agricultural products of these districts. It also intended to enhance the all-round economic development of Nepal by using this road as an alternative trunk

road connecting capital city and Nepal's eastern southern plains (HMG, MoFA, 1996, pp. 17-18). This road has become very useful for the peasants in the eastern southern parts of Nepal in a number of ways.

Japan has also played very significant role in the extension and modernization of the existing airports of Nepal in different ways. In this connection, Japan agreed to extend a grant assistance of up to ¥ 989,000,000 (approx. NRs. 906,900,000 or US\$ 10,500,000) to Nepal, for the execution of the Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) Modernization Project (Surveillance System) in JFY 2012.

The airport in the present context remain properly unequipped. Before this Japan had extended its assistance to Nepal with 3.559 billion Japanese yen for the project for Modernization of Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu by installing a Radar System in 1994 and with 1.272 billion Japanese yen for the Project for Improvement of Existing Air Traffic Services System by improving Communication System in 1999.

Nepal is utilizing the grant to purchase products and services necessary for the installation of a Secondary Radar System for Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA). An Antenna Tower and a Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radar (MSSR) System would be installed at Bhattedanda, south of the Kathmandu Valley, and another MSSR System will be installed at TIA as a replacement for the existing (Airport Surveillance Radar/Secondary Surveillance Radar) system to enhance and strengthen the present surveillance system installed under the Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) extended in 1994.

The project intends address the need for the long awaited installation of a Secondary Radar System at TIA, which would enhance the surveillance capacity of the airport from the existing Approach Control to an Area Control System. With the installation of this system,

the whole eastern part of the country, and up to Dang in the west, will be covered, making it easier for TIA Air Traffic Controllers to manage Nepal's air space more safely and efficiently. This present assistance is the continuation of Japan's assistance for further strengthening aviation safety in Nepal (INFOJAPAN, Vol. 35, August 2013, p. 2). Japan's such generous aid to Nepal would help the latter to modernize its air capability in Nepal.

Japan's aid to micro-hydropower development in Nepal has been one of the important aspects of Japan's aid to Nepal. Japan is supporting such micro-hydropower because it is the need of the Nepalese people. Japan decided to extend a Grant Assistance up to ¥1,571,000,000 (approx. NRs. 1,475,000,000), to Nepal, for the execution of the Project for Micro-Hydropower Improvement in Western Area in Japan's Fiscal Year 2013. Under this grant, the Project is to purchase the products and services necessary for the construction of infrastructure and the replacement/installation of new equipment for the improvement of three existing micro-hydropower plants in Bajhang, Bajura and Rukum Districts in Western Nepal. The total installed capacity of these plants will be 698 kW (Bajhang230kW, Bajura228kW and Syarpudaha, Rukum240kW).

These three micro-hydropower plants have been supplying electricity to remote villages that are not connected to the national energy grid of Nepal, and have been contributing to strengthening local development activities as well as helping children enhance their study. The infrastructures of these plants, including the power plant and water canals, have already been in operation for more than 25 years and have now exceeded their life-span and are in need of urgent improvement. Until now, local communities have benefited and it is expected that after the completion of this project more than 6,000 households would directly

benefit from an uninterrupted and reliable energy supply. Japan expects the infrastructures being constructed and equipment being installed for the improvement of these plants will be well maintained and operated effectively with the strong ownership of all stakeholders (INFOJAPAN, Vol. 38, August 2014, p. 1)

As one of the top ten donors in Nepal, Japan has been providing technical assistance to Nepal in the field of implementing and handling technical co-operation projects. Japan has started providing technical co-operation to Nepal with the dispatch of Japan overseas co-operation volunteers (JOCVs).

Japan has dispatched 1400 technical experts and 838 Japan Overseas Co-operation Volunteers (JOCV). Japan started dispatching senior volunteer since 1995. It is said that 33 of them have already provided their service to Nepal in different forms and capacities (JFA, 2004, pp. 37-38).

Besides the above mention grant and loan assistance project, Japan is providing technical assistance projects in a number of activities including providing experts/volunteers. Various types of long term and short term training programs in Japan, and organizing Dialogue Seminar on Nepal's State Building: Growth and Development Strategy (IECCD, 2014, p. 40).

Japan has been supporting Nepal in all most all sectors of is economy ranging from social sector to the preservation of environment/conservation of natural resources. In the context of growing deforestation and environmental degradation, Japan has been assisting Nepal in improvement and protection of environmental factors. It has also extended its support in a number of projects including in the areas of disaster mitigation, forest/watershed conservation studies of Fewa Lake and community development (IFA, 2004, p. 39).

The Japanese technical assistance in the field of environment is given in the table below:

**Table-5.2: Japanese Economic and Technical Support in the Environmental Sector**

| <b>Project</b>  | <b>Technical Assistance<br/>(Year)</b> |
|---|--|
| Community Development and Forestry/Watershed Conservation Project | 1994-2005                              |
| The Study on the Solid Waste Management in Kathmandu Valley       | 2003-2007                              |
| Phewa Lake Environment Awareness and Capacity Building            | 2004-2007                              |

*Source:* IECCD, 2014, p. 39.

Japan since 1985 has been playing very significant role in the development of agriculture in Nepal. It has provided grant and technical assistance in the construction of ground water project, sericulture promotion, fisheries, community development, forest conservation and agricultural training. The Japanese aid in agriculture intended to improve agricultural infrastructures, raising production of high value agricultural products, development and diffusion of agricultural production technologies to generate and increase employment opportunities and also raise the level of income of peasants.



The agricultural farms developed in different parts of the country under Japanese aid have contributed a lot in the development of agriculture and raising the standard of the peasants (IFA, 2004, p. 38).

The Japanese grant and technical assistance in agricultural sector during 1985-2010 has been outlined in the table given below:

**Table-5.3: Japan's Economic and Technical Support in Agricultural Sector**

| Project   | Grant Assistance |                  | Technical Assistance (Year) |
|---|------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
|   | Year             | Amount           |                             |
| Expansion of Horticulture Center  | 1985             | J¥ 847 million   | 1985-1990<br>1992-1999      |
| Terai Ground Water Development Project                                    | 1989             | J¥ 452 million   | 1991-1994                   |
| Janakpur Agriculture Development Project                                  | 1975, 1976       | J¥ 240 million   | 1974-1984                   |
| Center for Quality Improvement Center (Irrigation)                        | 1984-1985        | J¥ 750 million   | 1995-1998                   |
| Natural Water Fisheries Project   | 1990-1991        | J¥ 499 million   | 1991-1998                   |
| Sericulture Promotion   | -                | -                | 1995-2002                   |
| Himalayan Tea Technology Outreach and Extension Project                   | -                | -                | 2004-2007                   |
| Food Aid (KR)   | 2003-2010        | J¥ 3,000 million | -                           |
| Community Development and Forest/Watershed Conservation Project- 1 and II | 1995-2006        |                  |                             |
| Agricultural Training and Extension Improvement Project                   | -                | -                | 2004-2010                   |

*Source:* IECCD, 2014, pp. 38-39.

Japan's Aid in the Human Resource Development of Nepal, efficient management and proper utilization of existing natural resources is particularly important.

### **Japanese Economic and Technical Support in the Development of Economic Infrastructures in Nepal**

Japan since 1975 has been playing very significant role in the economic development of Nepal by undertaking a number of activities including development of economic infrastructures in different places and in different forms. These infrastructures, among other things, include the construction of hydro-electric projects, cement factories, disaster prevention projects, bridges, modernization of airports, construction and improvement of roads.

The economic Japanese economic and technical supports in the development of economic infrastructures in Nepal are given below in the table:

**Table-5.4: Japanese Economic and Technical Support in the Development of Economic Infrastructures in Nepal**

| Project   | Loan         |                   | Grant Assistance  |                   | Technical Assistance |
|---|--------------|-------------------|---|-------------------|----------------------|
|   | Year         | Amount            | Year  | Amount            |                      |
| Kulekhani Hydroelectric Project   | 1975         | J¥ 4,005          | -   | -                 |                      |
| Kulekhani No. 2 Hydro Power Station Project   | 1981<br>1983 | J¥ 12,150 million | -   | -                 |                      |
| Udayapur Cement Plant Project   | 1987         | J¥ 18,770 million | -   | -                 |                      |
| Kulekhani Disaster Prevention Project   | 1990<br>1996 | J¥ 6,194 million  | -   | -                 |                      |
| Kaligandaki "A" Hydroelectric Project   | 1996         | J¥ 16,916 million | -   | -                 |                      |
| Improvement and Development of Power Transmission and Distribution System in Kathmandu Valley | -            | -                 | 1980<br>1982<br>1985<br>1986<br>1992-1995<br>2002<br>2003 | J¥ 11,233 million |                      |
| Expansion and Development of the Medium-Wave Radio Broadcasting Network                       | -            | -                 | -   | 1988-1989         | J¥ 71 million        |
| Reconstruction of Bridges in Kathmandu  | -            | -                 | 1990-1992   | J¥ 1,849 million  | -                    |

contd...

|  |           |                 |                   |                   |                  |
|--|-----------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Improvement of Kathmandu Water Supply Facilities                       | -         | -               | 1992-1993         | 2001-2003         | J¥ 16 million    |
| Construction of Water Induce Disaster Prevention Technical Center      | -         | -               | 1993              | J¥ 842 million    | 1991-2006        |
| Construction of New Bagmati Bridge at Thapathali                       | -         | -               | 1993-1994         | J¥ 1,292 million  | -                |
| Modernization of Tribhuvan International Airport                       | -         | -               | 1993-1994<br>1999 | -                 | J¥ 4,831 million |
| Improvement of Intersections in Kathmandu City                         | -         | -               | 2000-2001         | J¥ 1,061 million  |                  |
| Improvement of Water Supply Facilities in Urban and Semi-urban Centres | -         | -               | 2005              | J¥ 1,124 million  |                  |
| Construction of Banepa-Sindhuli Road (Section I, IV, II)               | -         | -               | 1996-2008         | J¥ 13,996 million |                  |
| Construction of Kawasoti Sub-Station                                   | -         | -               | 2007-2008         | J¥ 847 million    |                  |
| Project for the Improvement of Kathmandu-Bhaktapur Road                | 2008-2012 | J¥ 2689 million |                   |                   |                  |
| Introduction of Clean Energy by Solar Electricity Generation System    | 2010-2012 | J¥ 660 million  |                   |                   |                  |

**Source:** IECCD, MoF, 2014, pp.38-39.

Japan started providing loan assistance to Nepal since 1969 onwards and it started providing grant assistance since 1970. Japan has started supporting the socio-economic development activities since 1969 covering almost all sectors of Nepalese economy.

Japan has been providing grant assistance in social sector (e.g. health and education) since 1981 and a number of projects were completed under Japanese grant and technical assistance.

Japan has also played significant role in the construction extension of health facilities in urban and rural areas. The construction of two large Hospitals in the heart of the Kathmandu city- TU Teaching Hospital (TUTH) and the National Tuberculosis Center as the regional centre for SAARC are biggest health achievement for Nepal. Japan has also supported the GoN in making efforts for providing safe drinking water providing different vaccination including polio vaccine, maternity health care and other medical care programs (Khanal, 2012).

The number of projects, and the grant and technical assistance provided by Japan to Nepal are as follows:

**Table-5.5: Number of Projects the Grant and Technical Assistance Provided by Japan to Nepal**

| Project  | Grant Assistance                                 |                  | Technical Assistance<br>(Year) |
|--|--|------------------|--------------------------------|
|  | Year   | Amount           |                                |
| Establishment and Expansion of TU Teaching Hospital  | 1981-1982<br>1990-1992                           | J¥ 5,942 million | 1980-1994                      |
| Construction of Primary Schools under BPEP and EFA   | 1994-1997<br>1999-2001<br>2003-2005<br>2008-2009 | J¥ 7,141 million |                                |
| Construction of the National Tuberculosis Center     | 1987   | J¥ 1,431 million | 1987-2005                      |
| Expansion of Kanti Children's Hospital               | 1984, 1993-1994                                  | J¥ 2,065 million |                                |
| Improvement of Storage Facilities of Iodized Salt    | 2000-2001  | J¥ 1,453 million |                                |
| Community Based Alternative Schooling Project        | 2004-2010  |                  |                                |
| Support for Improvement of Primary School Management | 2008-2011  |                  |                                |
| School Health and Nutrition Project                  | 2008-2012  |                  |                                |

**Source:** International Economic Co-operation Co-ordination Division (IECCD), MoF, 2014, p. 37.

Japan has been extending its support in social sector including maternity health care, providing safe drinking water, providing polio vaccine, and other medical care programs (IFA, 2004, p. 38).

### **Japanese Ongoing Technical Co-operation Projects**

Besides those projects which were already completed, there are a number of ongoing technical co-operation projects as underlined in the table below:

**Table-5.6: Japanese Ongoing Technical Co-operation Project**

| <b>Description</b>   |
|--|
| Strengthening the Monitoring and Evaluation System in Nepal Phase II (SMES2)   |
| School Health Nutrition Project  |
| Participatory Watershed Management and Local Governance Project  |
| Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion Project  |
| Strengthening Community Mediation Capacity for Peaceful and Harmonious Society   |
| Promoting Peace Building and Democratization through the Capacity Development of Media Sector                                  |
| The project for strengthening the capacity of Court Expeditious and Reliable Dispute Settlement                                |
| Public Procurement Support project   |
| Support for the Election Commission, Nepal   |
| The Project for Capacity development on Water Supply in Semi-urban Areas (WASMIP)  |
| Support for Improvement of Primary School Management Phase II  |
| Operation and Maintenance of Sindhuli Road   |
| The Project for the Master Plan Study on the High Value Agriculture Extension and Promotion in Sindhuli Road Corridor (SRCAMP) |
| The Project for the Development of Spare parts Management Center and En-route Rader Control Services (TCP)                     |

**Source:** IECCD, MoF, 2014, pp. 39-40.



Besides the above completed projects, there are a number of ongoing granted aid projects in Nepal as given in the table below:

**Table-5.7: Japanese Ongoing Grant Aid Projects in Nepal**

| Description  |
|--|
| Banepa-Sindhuli Road Construction Project (Section III)  |
| Project for the Construction of new Kawasoti Sub-station   |
| TIA Modernization Project (Surveillance System)  |
| Grant Aid for Debt Relief (DRF)  |
| Food Aid Project (KR)  |
| Food Security Project for Underprivileged Farmers (2KR)  |
| Non-Project Grant (NPG)  |
| Countermeasures construction for the landslide on Sindhuli Road<br>Section II Community Access Improvement Project (Rural Road<br>Bridge Construction) |
| Forest Preservation program  |

**Source:** IECCD, MoF, 2014, p. 40.

Japan has played very significant role in the extension of transportation networks in Nepal in a number of ways and projects. The grant aid given to Nepal in 2008 intended to improve the traffic condition and transportation networks to improve Kathmandu-Bhaktapur Road (construction of international level six-lane road for the first time in Nepal) has been completed and handed over to the GON. The Japanese aid also includes the construction of extension of rural transportation network under which Japan is constructing Dhulikhel-Sindhuli (BP Highway) Road. The major portion of the Highway is completed and some parts are still under construction (Khanal, 2012)

These roads have become the backbone of Nepalese economy (particularly in the eastern region) promoting micro-level rural economy of Nepal.

Japan has also played significant role in the strengthening the democratic practices in Nepal in a number of way<sup>7</sup> and has also providing assistance for such activities.

### **Japan's Aid in the Strengthening of Democracy in Nepal**

Japan's aid to Nepal has covered vast areas and includes almost all aspects of Nepalese life including political ones. Nepal has also requested Japan to provide support in the conduct of its second CA elections. Accordingly, Japan extended to Nepal a grant up to ¥149,000,000 or (approx. NRs. 142,146,000), for the Execution of the Project for Assistance to the Constituent Assembly (CA) Election of the Government of Nepal. The Notes of that grant were signed by Ambassador Mr. Kunio Takahashi and Finance Secretary Mr. Shanta Raj Subedi, on behalf of their respective government, on July 24, 2013 at the Ministry of Finance. That grant assistance was used for the procurement of election related materials for the Constituent Assembly (CA) Election such as security seals, ballot-box stickers and others.

Japan, as one of the matured democracy of the world, has also provided various supports for the strengthening and institutionalization of democratic polity in Nepal. Investing in the peace imitative and democracy has always been one of the three pillars of the development co-operation of Japan to Nepal. Japan, as a development partner and a well wisher of Nepal, has always been strongly supportive of the establishment of democracy in Nepal. After the more than a decade long conflict, the Constituent Assembly (CA) Election in Nepal, this as a national historic turning point, was to take place for the second time on November 19, 2013 with the strong commitment of the Interim Election Government. Japan expected that the Election Commission Nepal (ECN) would be fully supported by all the people of

Nepal, as well as the political parties, for its success to fulfill Nepali people's aspirations for democracy, peace and stability in the country.

As an update, the Government of Japan extended a Grant Assistance of approximately ¥150,000,000 in JFY 2006 under the Non-Project Grant Aid to procure ballot boxes, lids, security seals, stickers for the boxes and training on the Japanese Electoral System for the 2008 CA Election. In addition, the Government of Japan provided 25 servers and training for ECN's IT related personnel in 2012 and 50 servers in 2013 through JICA to enhance the voters' database management capacity of ECN for fair and free election results. The servers were intended to communicate information electronically among the elected officials quickly and efficiently with very little error. The assistance provided in 2013 also included ten solar panels for emergency energy backup to run the Election Commission Offices in ten districts where there is no regular supply of electricity. Ambassador Mr. Takahashi reiterated that Japan expected the successful CA Election to bring peace and political stability to Nepal. He concluded with the remarks that the support to ECN would be a milestone in strengthening the lasting bonds of friendship between the two countries in the days to come (INFOJAPAN, Vol. 35, August 2013, p. 2).

Japan since 2002 has also been providing a non-project grant aid to Nepal. Under the agreement signed between the two countries in August 2002, Japan provided Rs. 856.7 million (Yen 1300 million) to Nepal which intended to promote structural adjustment efforts (IFA,2004, p. 39).

### **Japanese Loan Assistance to Nepal**

Under the assistance to Nepal, Japan has provided loan assistance to Nepal in the development of power sector including Kaligandaki: A Hydro Electric Project, Kulekhani Hydro Power Station and Disaster Prevention Project. The cumulative loan assistance to Nepal till 2008, as one source

states, has been 63,889 billion Yen (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Tokyo, Sept. 2009 (quoted from Khanal, 2012)

As one of the largest donor countries in the contemporary socio-economic development of Japan has been providing large amounts of grants, loans (later also converted into grants) and technical assistance to Nepal which was spent in social sector (more than 20 percent), agriculture (about 26 percent) and rest (55%) in the development of economic infrastructures in Nepal (Bagale, 2011, p. 49).

The debt relief measures have become one of the most important characteristic features of Japanese aid to Nepal. It is one of the important aspects of Japanese assistance to Nepal and Nepal's economic foreign policy, under which Japan gives back in grant from the debt amortized by Nepal as a debt relief measure (HMG, MoFA, 1993, pp. 55-57). This is one of the unique characteristics of Japanese aid to Nepal. Under this system Japanese Government has been paying back all the principal and interest accrued on Japanese loans to the recipient country itself on the half-yearly basis, under its debt relief scheme for east developing countries. Nepal has been receiving such grant assistance since 1979. Such grant is deposited in a special account in Bank of Tokyo in the Name of HMG/N. The grant can be utilized to import goods and services. At present it is being utilized to provide foreign exchange facilities to the Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC) to import petroleum products. The Nepalese currency generated from this exchange facility is deposited in a special account at Nepal Rastra Bank and is utilized for financing the development projects through budgetary process (HMG/N, MoFA, September, 1996, p. 12).

Nepal intends to increase industrial competitiveness by attracting FDI and adopting appropriate technology suited to the nation. According to one statistics, out of the total 10 FDIs in operation in Nepal (as of April 2008),

Japan stands as the sixth largest sources of FDI in Nepal running/supporting 44 industries (Sharma, 2010, p. 154).

### **Japan ODA Support to Nepal during FY 1969-2010**

Japan's ODA loan support to Nepal is one of the important aspects of Japanese aid to Nepal under which Japan has provided loan assistance to different ongoing projects of Nepal. The first grant loan was provided to Nepal in 1968 which has written off debt many times.

Besides several completed projects, there are some ongoing Japanese ODA loan projects Nepal which include: Melamchi Water Supply Project (Water Treatment Plant), Tanahu Hydropower Project, Project for Basic Education Improvement in Support of the School Sector Reform (IECCD, 2014, p. 40).

On January 31, 2014, Japanese Ambassador to Nepal Mr. Ogawa attended the ground breaking program for the construction of the Melamchi Water Treatment Plant (WTP) at Sundarijal. This WTP component of the Melamchi Water Supply Project would be constructed under financial assistance of the Government of Japan. For the implementation of this component, Japan agreed, on March 30, 2001, to extend a total of 5,495 billion Japanese yen loan to Nepal. The Project, unfortunately, faced several unexpected circumstances resulting in the considerable delay in its implementation. But finally Japan has started the construction of the Water Treatment Plant after more than a decade long delay.

The Melamchi Water Supply Project is a co-finance project with ADB. It has been recognized as the best long-term solution to a safe drinking water supply for the Kathmandu Valley. This project is to take the water from the Melamchi River to Sundarijal through a water diversion tunnel, which is under construction under financial assistance of ADB. After treating the water by constructing a Water Treatment Plant at Sundarijal, clean and adequate water

would be distributed to the Kathmandu Valley. As a sincere development partner of Nepal, Japan decided to be a part of this Project, and is financially engaged on the Water Treatment Plant component (INFOJAPAN, 2014, Embassy of Japan in Nepal, Vol. 37, March).

### **Japanese Soft Loan to Nepal**

Japan's soft loan assistance to Nepal can also be regarded as one of the important characteristics of Japanese aid to Nepal under which Japan has provided soft loan assistance to Nepal on the request of the latter. Japan has time and again changed the soft loan to grants.

Japan has also been providing soft loan to Nepal on the request of GoN since 1976 onwards. The Japanese soft loan to Nepal has become one of the important aspects of its aid to Nepal. Since 1976 onwards Nepal has also been receiving soft loans from the government of Japan. So far Nepal has already received five loans for four projects, namely, Kulekhani Hydroelectric Project I (Yen 3.0 billion in 1976 and Yen 1,005 billion in 1978), Second Kulekhani Project (Yen 4,805 billion in 1983), Udaipur Cement Project (Yen 18.770 billion in 1987), and Kulekhani Disaster Prevention Project (Yen 2.710 billion in 1990). The earlier loans carry interest rate of 2.76 percent per annum, whereas loans received for Second Kulekhani and Udaipur Cement Project carry the interest rate 1.25 percent. Loan for Kulekhani Disaster Prevention Project is received at further concessional term with 1.0 percent rate of interest. The repayment period of all loans is 20 years with a grace period of 10 years (HMG/N, MoFA, 1996, p. 13).

### **Japan's Technical Support Assistance to Nepal**

Japan's technical support/assistance to Nepal is one of the important dimensions of contemporary Nepal-Japan relations and Nepal's economic foreign policy. Japan joined the Colombo Plan in 1954 which included number of sectors of Nepalese economy including planning, administration, transport,

public works, highway, health, education environmental preservation and social welfare.

Japan's Technical Assistance to Nepal has some specific characteristics. The services of Japanese experts, volunteers, fellowship and training facilities for the Nepalese students and trainees as well as machinery and equipment are provided through Japan Overseas Co-operation Volunteers (JOCV) and JICA. The Offices of JOCV and JICA were established in Nepal in 1970 and 1978 respectively. These two offices were amalgamated in 1983 (HMG/N, MoFA, 1996, p. 13). Under such technical support, Japan has been conducting number of activities including sending its technical experts providing such training to Nepalese personnel in Japan and also providing such training in Nepal. By the end of 2008, as one source reveals, nearly 4057 Nepalese personnel were trained and 1632 Japanese experts have visited Nepal in this connection. The cumulative amount of such technical co-operation by 2008 was 56.748 billion Yen (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Tokyo, Sept. 2009; quoted from Khanal, 2012).

Japanese technical co-operation in the development of human resources is another important aspect/dimension of Nepal Japan relations without which the study of the bilateral relations would be inadequate. Japan's such co-operation and technology transfer at the beginning was started by Japan Overseas Co-operation Volunteer (JOCU) and in 1974, the responsibility was given to Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) in Nepal. Some policy changes were made in this direction in 2006 according to which Japan stopped sending Nepalese technician to Japan. The Japanese technical co-operation in the form of technology has been very fruitful to Nepal in a number of ways (Khanal, 2012).

Japan's economic support in the field of food security and human security of Nepal is no less important. The food and human security support for rural Nepal is in progress. Japan's support to rural electrification project,

which intends to provide electricity facilities to rural areas and reinforcement of power transmission in the capital city, according to the Master Plan Study conducted by JICA, is under construction under the ODA Grant Aid Program. The cumulative grant aid till 2008, according to one source, is 177.23 million Japanese Yen (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Tokyo, Sept, 2009; quoted from Khanal, 2012).

### **Foreign Direct Investment in Nepal**

A good business and investment climate is critical for private sector-led economic development. A good business and investment-friendly and conducive environment provide ample opportunities and incentives for private sector to invest money in different sector of economy and create jobs for the citizens in different forms. Moreover, the investment climate attempts to a larger extent to shape the costs and risks of doing business and investing in economic sectors. The favourable and conducive investment climate also tries to determine the rule of the game in economic sector and codes of conduct of the competitive games. It also determines the role and impact of private sector in socio-economic development and poverty reduction (FNCCI, Business Climate Survey, 2013, p. 9).

In the context of deteriorating business environment (caused due to a number of factors including political one in Nepal), it has to be properly understood by the policy makers and ruling elites that "unless there is a good business and investment climate for development of private sector, no investment will come forth- be in local or foreign" (FNCCI, Business Climate Survey, 2013, p. 9).

The promotion of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Nepal has become one of the declared economic foreign policy of Nepal under which the country had declared a number of policy reforms for promoting foreign direct investment (under the name the global economic reforms- privatization, globalization and liberalization). Nepal has tried to promote FDI by



declaring these measures but experts believe that these policy reforms are inadequate for a number of reasons including lack of clarity, number of laws to govern the sector and subjective judgment of officials (to mention a few) (Sharma, 2010, p. 154).

### **5.3 Nepal-Japan Joint Economic Ventures**

Nepal-Japan joint economic ventures are also getting encouragement in Nepal. According to one statistics, nearly thirty Nepal-Japan joint ventures related to hotels, TV assembling industries, tourism, food industries, horticulture, herbal cosmetics and construction sectors are operating in Nepal. Moreover five joint ventures are also said to be under consideration and eighteen have been issued license (IFA, 2004, p. 39).

The amount of FDI in the present context in the contemporary situation could be accelerated to a higher level due to a number of factors including low cost of labour and raw materials in Nepal than Japan. In order to promote such investment in Nepal, Nepal has to undertake a number of activities including improving its law and order situation, guaranteeing the safety of the investor's money and formulation of adequate and practical laws to govern this sector.

In this context, Nepal has also to encourage and attract the Japanese businessmen to visit Nepal, observe the business situation so that they would be assured to invest their capital in Nepal. Nepal has also to promote FDI from Japan by making certain amendments in the existing laws including making the visa process easier (Khanal, 2012).

#### **Japan's Investment Activities in Nepal/Japanese Joint Venture Investment Projects in Nepal**

Japan's investment activity in Nepal is one of the facets of existing Nepal-Japan relations. Japan's such investments in Nepal were intensified in post-1970's. Japan's investment in Nepal has hovered in and around two

percent and stands at fifth position in terms of major investors in Nepal till/by July 2012. In the contemporary Nepalese economic scenario, the Japanese Joint Venture Investment Projects are concentrated mainly on few areas including in tourism, service sector, manufacturing, agriculture, mine and energy (Sigdel, 2014, pp. 25-26).

Japan is one of the major investor in Nepal. As of July 2012, 167 projects under Japanese investment have come into operation in Nepal with an investment of Rs. 1220 million which helped create 6986 jobs.

In the present context, it would be advisable for Japanese investment to be concentrated on few more areas including water resources management, electricity generation projects, herbal medicine production, plant processing exploration and utilization of natural resources, including mines, tourism, agro-industry (Sigdel, 2014, pp. 25-26). As prerequisites, the Nepalese business sector, the government and the stakeholders have to develop a clear and systematic road map for this, including the policies, programs and strategies related to the prospect of Japan's investment in Nepal. Politically, the law and order situation have to be improved including the framing of the democratic constitution by the 2<sup>nd</sup> CA. Legally, there must be clarity in the existing legal provisions. Psychologically, the investors have to be satisfied that their investment would be protected and guaranteed in Nepal. The Japanese investors, thus, be encouraged to invest their capital in Nepal in such secured position.

#### **5.4 Nepal-Japan Trade Relations**

A Nepal-Japan trade relation is one of the important aspects the economic relations between the two countries without, which the study of the bilateral relations would be incomplete. Nepal-Japan trade relations, for convenience, can be broadly categorized into relations before the establishment of diplomatic relations (1956) or pre-1956 period or post-1956 periods. Nepal-Japan trade relation existed even before 1956 or in pre-1956 periods.

The trade relations between the two countries existed long before the two countries formally established diplomatic relations and established permanent embassies in each other's countries. During the British rule in India, Nepal, under Rana Prime Minister Chandra Shumsher had allowed Japanese goods to pass in transit through India enroute to Nepal (Mihaly, 2002; Sharma, 2010, p. 148).

Nepal's such permission became suicidal game to Nepal's existing cottage industries leading Nepal to be completely dependent on outside goods (from India). Nepal during Two World Wars used to import some cotton textile goods and silk from Japan (Sigdel, 2003).

The bilateral trade relations between the two countries flourished in post-1956 periods. After the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1956, the bilateral relations between them resumed, though it is very small in size but fastly growing (Sharma, 2010, p. 146).

In the contemporary business world Japan is one of the prominent trading partners of Nepal. The share of Japan in the total trade of Nepal has been 3.9 percent during the period of 1994-95. Nepal receives tariff preferences under the GSP scheme of Japan. Nepal's export to this country is insignificant compared to her sizeable market. The share of Japan in the total export of Nepal is 0.4 percent during the same period of time. Japan occupies an important place with the share of 4 percent in the total import of Nepal. The overall trade flow between Nepal and Japan shows an increasing trend. Nepal's export to Japan comprises of handicraft, silver jewellery, ready-made garment, carpet, hides and skin and indigenous handmade paper products. Nepal's import from Japan consists of transport equipment, vehicles, medicines, industrial raw material, electronics, fertilizer, office equipments, telecommunication equipment, TV, iron steel and other goods based on the need of the time and situation (HMG/N, MoFA, 1996, p. 13).

Nepal's export import<sup>1</sup> situation during FY 1991-92 to 1994-95 have given presented in the table below:

**Table-5.8: Nepal's Export Import Situation during FY 1991-92 to 1994-95**

(Value in 000' Rs.)

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Export</b> | <b>Import</b> |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1991-92     | 51,454        | 28,72,806     |
| 1992-93     | 84,691        | 27,09,286     |
| 1993-94     | 81,175        | 27,37,591     |
| 1994-95     | 75,445        | 31,96,411     |

*Source:* HMG/N, MoFA, 1996, p. 14.

Japan's Trade with Japan during 2010-2012 is given below:

Value in '000 Rs

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Export</b> | <b>Import</b> | <b>Trade Balance</b> |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|
| 2010        | 599,066,748   | 5,582,974,739 | -4,983,907,991       |
| 2011        | 684,848,373   | 3,805,785,844 | -3,120,937,471       |
| 2012        | 1,042,324,897 | 6,280,797,352 | -5,238,472,455       |

### **Nepal's Export to Japan**

But as one government source reveals, the trade balance is heavily in Japan's favour. As Nepal has few or no quality products of its own to export Japan, Nepal's exports promising items for to Japan consists of only some agricultural and primary goods carpets, tea, essential oil, Nepalese paper, silver jewellery, knitwear handicrafts, readymade garments, medicinal herbs (HMG, MoFA, n.d., p. 26; HMG/N, MoFA, 1996, p. 14). As these items are

<sup>1</sup> Nepal Trade with Japan in Exports is 962 million rupee (approx. \$ 11 million) (ready-made clothes, paper products, carpet, fabric) (2012/2013) and the imports is 4.6 billion rupee (approx. \$ 53.5 million) (steel products, machinery, industrial products, automotive parts) (2012/2013). The direct investment from Japan is 199 million rupee (approx. \$ 2.3 million) (2012/2013).

Japan's Economic Cooperation to Nepal includes list of exchange of notes; Loans: 79 billion yen (up to 2013); Grants: 197.4 billion yen (up to 2013) and technical cooperation: 63.6 billion yen (up to 2012) (<http://www.nepalembassyjapan.org>)

the promising items for export expansion in future, Nepal has to improve their quality products in future.

Japanese assistance to Nepal's export promotion is one of the important characteristics of Nepal-Japan trade/export import under which Japan has been providing financial assistance covering the charge of stall rental and basic logistics for Nepal's participation in Tokyo and Osaka International Trade Fair (HMG/N, MoFA, 1996, p. 14). This has to some extent helped Nepal to promote its export in international market.

Moreover the major commodity wise export, items during the FY 1994/95 (in '000 Nep. Rs.) were given in the Table:

**Table-5.9: Major Export Commodity wise 94/95 (in '000 Rs.)**

| S.N. | Export Commodity                  | Rs.    |
|------|-----------------------------------|--------|
| 1.   | Medicinal Herbs                   | 2,852  |
| 2.   | Nepalese Paper and Paper Products | 3,285  |
| 3.   | Carpet (hand knotted Woolen)      | 3,880  |
| 4.   | Handicrafts                       | 10,901 |
| 5.   | Ready-made Garments               | 28,495 |
| 6.   | Woolen Goods                      | 18,248 |
| 7.   | Silverware and Jewellery          | 3,318  |

*Source:* HMG/N, MoFA, 1996, p. 14.

### **Nepal's Import from Japan**

Nepal's import from Japan according to one government source includes goods like medicines and medical equipments, fertilizers, C.R. sheet, steel pole, machineries, textiles, automobiles industrial equipments and electronic goods, steel sheets, machineries and parts transport equipments any

project suppliers(HMG, MoFA, n.d., p. 26; HMG/N; MoFA, 1996, p. 14). The major imports from Japan to Nepal during FY 1994/95 (in '000 Nepali Rs.) are given in the table below:

**Table-5.10:Major Import Commodity wise94-95 '000 Rs.**

| S.N. | Import Commodity               | Rs.      |
|------|--------------------------------|----------|
| 1.   | Medicine and Medical Equipment | 1,14,440 |
| 2.   | Fertilizers                    | 1,30,669 |
| 3.   | C.R. Sheet                     | 1,17,875 |
| 4.   | Steel Pole                     | 2,58,515 |
| 5.   | Steel Sheets                   | 1,66,899 |
| 6.   | Machineries and Parts          | 3,83,085 |
| 7.   | Electrical Goods               | 3,09,730 |
| 8.   | Transport Equipment            | 6,97,100 |
| 9.   | Project Supplies               | 1,87,191 |

**Source:** HMG/N, MoFA, 1996, p. 14.

In spite of the above mentioned facts, there is good scope of co-operation between the two countries in a number of areas including trade. Nepal can benefit itself from trade if it would be able advantage out of it.

### **Japan's Commodity Assistance to Nepal**

Japan's commodity assistance to Nepal is one of the important aspects and unique features of Japanese aid to Nepal. Under such assistance, Japan has been providing chemical fertilizers, gabion, wire, CGI sheets etc. under its commodity assistance scheme. It has also been providing emergency food aid assistance. Certain percentage of the assistance (on the basis of FOB price) has to be deposited in the

counterpart fund after a specified time period by selling the commodity received under the Japanese assistance. The amount deposited in the counterpart fund would be utilized for meeting the local costs of projects mutually agreed upon. Under the existing system, the counterpart fund could be utilized only for agricultural and forestry projects (HMG/N, MoFA, 1996, p. 13).

Moreover, Japan is also providing financial and material support for natural calamities, joint economic ventures, and debt relief measures.

Japan's emergency food aid assistance to Nepal is one of the important aspects and unique features of Japan's commodity assistance to Nepal under which Japan has been providing emergency food support and supply of foods to the food deficit areas of Nepal, through Nepal Food Corporation (NFC).

Japan since 2002 has also been providing a non-project grant aid to Nepal. Under the agreement signed between the two countries in August 2002, Japan provided Rs. 856.7 million (Yen 1300 million) to Nepal which intended to promote structural adjustment efforts (IFA, 2004, 39).

Non project grant aid to Nepal-Japan has also played significant role in various occasions in providing financial and material support to various natural calamities, including flood under such scheme. Japan provided financial and material assistance to Nepal amounting to US\$ 1.2 million for the flood relief operations in 1993 (HMG, MoFA, 1993, pp. 55-57). Under the non project grant aid to Nepal, Japan had provided Rs. 6.5 million as relief assistance to Nepal's flood victims of July 2002 (IFA, 2004, p. 39).

### **The Japanese Debt Relief Measures in Nepal**

The debt relief measures have become one of the most important characteristic features of Japanese aid to Nepal. It is one of the important aspects of Japanese assistance to Nepal and Nepal's economic foreign

policy, under which Japan gives back in grant from the debt amortized by Nepal as a debt relief measure (HMG, MoFA, 1993, pp. 55-57). This is one of the unique characteristics of Japanese aid to Nepal. Under this system Japanese Government has been paying back all the principal and interest accrued on Japanese loans to the recipient country itself on the half-yearly basis, under its debt relief scheme for east developing countries. Nepal has been receiving such grant assistance since 1979. Such grant is deposited in a special account in Bank of Tokyo in the Name of HMG/N. The grant can be utilized to import goods and services. At present it is being utilized to provide foreign exchange facilities to the Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC) to import petroleum products. The Nepalese currency generated from this exchange facility is deposited in a special account at Nepal Rastra Bank and is utilized for financing the development projects through budgetary process (HMG/N, MoFA, September, 1996, p. 12).

## **5.5 Japanese Tourists in Nepal**

Nepal's exposure to the outside world in post-1950 days, among other things, led to the dramatic and rapid growth of tourists visiting Nepal (making tourism as one of the successful industries in Nepal) from different countries including Japan. Nepal natural beauty, high Himalayas including the highest peaks, rich cultural heritage, personnel efforts of private tourism-based offices/personalities to mention a few) are some of the attractions for foreign tourists in Nepal. But the tourism industry has suffered a setback in Nepal in post-1995 days when the Maoist Insurgency and the conflict between the government and the Maoists continued to threaten the law and order situation in the country.

The political disturbances in 1979, trade dispute with India in 1989, mass uprising In 1990, the Maoist insurgency (in post-1995), the negative international publicity about the high level of pollution and garbage disposal and Nepal's failure to protest that through international media, the Royal



Palace Massacre on June 1, 2001, the September 9, 11, 2001 attack on the US; the political disturbance in Nepal (including *bandh*) (closure), transport strikes and a number of factors have led to the dramatic drop/decline in the number of tourist arrivals in Nepal (Sharma, 2010, p. 155).

The arrival of Japanese tourists in Nepal is one of new but important areas that contribute to the strengthening of existing bilateral economic ties.

Japan is one of the largest source countries of tourists in Nepal. Most Japanese visit Nepal for holidaying, trekking, mountaineering and pilgrimage to some important locations including Kathmandu, Pokhara and Lumbini (IFA, 2004, p. 39).

But the Japanese tourists arrivals have not so dramatically declined and they make the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest tourists visiting Nepal next to the Indians. The number of Japanese tourists, according to one statistics, has increased from 147 in 1962 to 24231 in 2004. With the visit of Japanese Prime Minister Mori in 2000, there was dramatic growth in the number tourists arrival in Nepal in which 41,070 tourists (the highest recorded number) visited Nepal (Sharma, 2010, p. 155). In 2010, 22,445 tourists and in 2011, 233,32 tourists arrived in Nepal.

In the context of globalization and the growing economic prosperity of Japan, Nepal can contribute to its economic development by attracting tourists from Japan and increasing their number in Nepal. But Nepal has to improve its law and order situation, insure their security in Nepal, make tourists police more alert, take strong action against those who discourage/do harm to tourists, (to mention a few measures) in order to increase the number of tourists in Nepal.

## **5.6 Japanese Cultural Grant Aid to Nepal**

Japan is encouraging international exchanges programs with Nepal in the field of culture. With an intention of promoting educational, socio-cultural

and research activities/works, including the preservation of cultural heritages assets and relics, the holding of cultural programs and art exhibitions, Japan since 1977, has been providing cultural grant aid to Nepal. It included micrographic equipment to National Sports council, printing equipment to Royal Nepal Academy, display equipment to Buddhist, Art Gallery at National Museum and dubbing equipment and educational program to NTV (IFA, 2004, p. 39). These cultural grant aids to Nepal have played very significant role in the preservation of cultural assents and heritages of Nepal. Nepal can also learn many things from Japan about how to preserve cultural assents and heritages of Nepal.

The Japanese language training in Nepal can also play crucial role in the attraction of tourists from Japan. The Japanese Embassy in Kathmandu is contributing in this direction by arranging providing cultural promotional program occasionally. The Department of Japanese language at College of International language in Kathmandu is also making important contribution in the promotion of Nepal-Japan ties at the informal people to people levels (Bagale, 2011, p. 49).

### **Japanese Mountaineering Expedition Teams in Nepal**

The Japanese mountaineering expeditions teams coming to Nepal is another source of attraction in the bilateral economic ties and the source of income for Nepal. Japan's aids to health sector in recent years have become particularly important. The exchanges of visits of the Finance Ministers, Commerce Ministers are also one of the sources of improving further economic relations between them. The Japanese people love Nepal, its high mountains and Himalayas (eight out of fourteen highest peaks, including the highest one, Mt. Everest lies in Nepal) and the arrival of Japanese mountaineering expedition teams in Nepal is one of the sources of income for Nepal. In the present context also, the Himalayas continue to attract Japanese climbers large numbers. The mountain lovers from Japan are regular visitors

to Nepal since the ascent of Mt. Manaslu in 1956 by a Japanese expedition team. Many Japanese mountaineers have climbed the high peaks of the Himalayas, including Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest).

World First women summiteers was Ms. Junko Tabei from Japan a member of the Japanese women's Everest expedition team, successfully reached the summit of Sagarmatha on May 16, 1975. Ms. Tabei, being the first woman in the world to scale Sagarmatha, was admired all over the world.

The year 2002 has been even more remarkable than previous years due to the achievements of some great explorers who have set new world records for the twenty-first century.

Nepal every year receives such expedition teams from Japan. Ms. Junko Tabei, a Japanese Women, was the first women to scale to highest peak, Mt. Everest on May 16, 1975 (Bagale, 2011, p. 49). The Himalayas of Nepal in the present day continue to enchant to Japanese climbers (<http://www.np.emb.Japan.go.jp>) In order to further attract the Japanese mountaineering expedition teams in Nepal, Nepal has to make certain provisions of this.

### **Nepalese Donation to Japan as a Token of Sympathy**

In the context of Japan, becoming a highly earthquake prone country (massive earthquake measuring 9.0 on rector scale) (March 11, 2011), devastating tsunami, nuclear plant disaster in Fukusima, Nepal had handed over five thousand pieces of blankets as a token of sympathy to the Japanese people victimized by the earthquake and tsunami (Bagale, 2011, p. 50).

Before this, Nepal had also sent a team of fifteen member security personnel to Japan in assisting in the ongoing rescue efforts. In this connection, on behalf of the GoN, Prime Minister JNKhanal had met the Japanese Ambassador to Nepal, HE Mr. Tasuo Mizuno at the Embassy of

Japan in Kathmandu expressing Nepal's deep sorrow over the loss of lives and property in Japan caused by the tsunami (Bagale, 2011, p. 50).

### **Exchange of Visits of Finance and Trade Ministers**

The exchange of visits of finance and trade ministers of both the countries have also become instrumental in further improving the existing economic ties between the two countries. In July Mr. Rutaro Hashimoto then Finance Minister of Japan, came on visit to Nepal. Minister of State for Finance Mahesh Acharya paid an official visit to Japan in September 1992. These visits have contributed to enhancing and deepening friendly bilateral relations and widening the areas of co-operation between the two countries (HMG, MoFA, 1993, pp. 55-57).

### **Regular Visits of the Projects by Japanese Authorities**

Japan is the major bilateral donor providing economic aid assistance through ODA since 1969 constantly Japan has not only given priority to Nepal's development activities but also constantly and regularly monitoring the Japan-founded ODA project sites. The visits by high level Japanese dignitaries have helped to improve the quality of the works in those areas. The visiting Japanese dignitaries to Nepal in spite of their time constraints had visited the ODA project sites. The Japanese ambassador's to Kathmandu have also been visiting such project sites occasionally. The Japanese ambassador to Kathmandu Ogawa had recently visited to Tanahu Hydropower project (Tanahu on May 28, 2014; project for drinking water using river water and rain water harvesting (Gorkha) on May 28, 2014, project for water supply facilities in urban and semi-urban centers (Morang) on June 25, 2014, and Jhapa (June 27, 2014) (INFOJAPAN, Vol. 38, August 2014, p. 3).

### **Japanese Grant Assistance to Japanese NGOs Projects**

Japanese grant assistance to Japanese NGOs project is one of the characteristics of Japan and is supporting Japanese NGO projects. The project

for strengthening reproductive health services in Jajarkot district was one of the projects.

The signing ceremony took place on May 1, 2014) and the amount was S\$ 625.657 (approx. NRs. 60,951,504) and the recipient was ADRA, Japan. Established in February 2012 intending to the improvement of neonatal and maternal health was implemented in Dailekh for the 1st Phase and in Kalikot for the 2nd phase under the support of Grant Assistance of the Japanese Government. The major elements of the 3rd Phase of this project, which would be Implemented in Jajarkot including are (1) Improvement of basic infrastructure of health facilities; (2) Strengthening the capacity of health institution; (3) Training to health service providers; and (4) Awareness raising and promotion of reproductive health (INFOJAPAN, Vol. 38, August 2014, p. 2).

The project for improving environmental sanitation of school children in 4 VDCs of Rupandehi district was signing ceremony: July 22, 2014 and the Amount was US\$ 232,975 (approx. NRs. 22,367,929) and the recipient was AMDA Multi-sectoral and Integrated Development Services (AMDA-MINDS) Nepal.

Intended to implement the project in Kamhariya, Mainahiya, HaatiBangai and Dhamauli VDCs in Rupendehi District, aiming for the improvement of environmental sanitation for school children. The major elements of this project are (1) Improvement of the environmental sanitation in schools; (2) Formation of Child Clubs and their capacity building; (3) Awareness raising and promotion of hygiene in schools; and (4) Improving the environmental sanitation through the co-operation of "Child Clubs" and communities. Nepal will support number of such Japanese NGO projects in Nepal in different ways and capacity (INFOJAPAN, Vol. 38, August 2014, p. 2).

In the contemporary Nepal, Japan is one of the largest donor countries which have played significant role in the all round development of Nepal by providing economic assistance to Nepal including important three components- grant assistance, credit assistance and technical assistance. Japan's financial assistance is provided both in specific project financing and program support. The technical support includes the services of Japanese experts, fellowships and equipment support and the development of human resources in Nepal. Besides these, Japan is also providing volunteers' service as part of technical support to meet Nepal's need of medium level human resources. In general, the Japanese aid has been utilized in a number of areas including in agriculture, health, education, rural, water supply, radio transmission, extension of transportation networks, electricity generation (including in rural areas), ground water development and the development of skilled and trained human resources. The bilateral trade between the two countries in current years is also flourishing, though the trade balance (in import export) is not in Nepal's favour.

Under Japan's ODA policy to Nepal, Nepal is receiving aid in different dimensions of economy including in hydro electric projects and the development of power sector (e.g. in Kaligandaki A and Kulekhani), health activities, agricultural development, providing safe drinking water, building educational institutions, project improving livelihood of farmers through environmentally harmonizing agriculture in hill districts, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), developing infrastructures in transportation and communication sectors, support in food and human security aspects.

In the present context of globalization, there is better scope in future to promote further relations in a number of areas including in the fields of trade, investment (e.g. FDI), and human resource utilization. Though the limited volume of trade has not benefitted Nepal, new further scope for this can be identified in future. In the context of growing population and the growing

unemployment in Nepal, it would be helpful for Nepal to "further improve relations with Japan in increasing job opportunities" in the international job market and "there is good prospect in this direction (Dahal, 2012, pp. 1-28).

Japan, thus, can become "a good employer to thousands of unemployed Nepalese" though 'thousand of Nepalese are still working in Japan legally or illegally' (Dahal, 2012, pp. 1-28). According to one statistics, there are altogether twenty thousand Nepalese citizens living in Japan and many of them are supposed to be students studying in different Japanese universities (Bagale, 2011, p. 48). The present scenario is not satisfactory from employment point of view and Nepal has to convince Japan (which currently is the third largest economy in the world) for such activities.

## **CHAPTER VI**

### **NEPAL-JAPAN CULTURAL RELATIONS**

The socio-cultural, religious and educational aspects/dimensions of Nepal-Japan relations are also very crucial aspect of the bilateral relations between them. Though the two societies have different dissimilarities, but they have also similarities too in character and in history.

By virtue of their common Asian heritage, there is a strong cultural link between the people of Nepal and Japan. Asian values are deeply rooted in the society and people in both countries. Although Nepal and Japan are geographically distant, a spiritual bond has existed since the introduction of Buddhism to Japan in the 6<sup>th</sup> century. Long before official contact between the two countries, the people of Nepal and Japan established links between them.

#### **6.1 Nepal-Japan Socio-cultural Relations**

The socio-cultural aspects/dimensions of Nepal-Japan relations are very important aspects of growing bilateral relations which have been studied here under the following sub-headings:

##### **Sharing of Common Socio-Cultural Values**

As one of the Buddhist country of the world, Japan gives priority in its relations with Nepal, the birthplace of Lord Buddha. Both of these two Asian countries share common socio-cultural values in many respects including the people's respect to the institutions of monarchy in both the countries (Dahal, 2012, p. 15) though Nepal became republic in 2008 under the Interim Constitution of Nepal. These two countries have many religious and cultural similarities. The socio-cultural relations between the two countries existed even before the formal establishment of diplomatic relations in 1956.



### **Japan's Role in the Re-construction of Lumbini**

The re-construction of Lumbini has become one of the important instruments in the strengthening of socio-cultural relations between the two countries. Japan has played very crucial role in the construction and development of modern Lumbini. As proposed by UN Secretary General Uthant in 1967, the Japanese sculptor Kenji Tonge had finally prepared the master plan for the development of modern Lumbini. Besides these, Japan had also contributed for the construction of International Buddhist Library and Cultural Centre and had also constructed temple of Lord Buddha in Lumbini. The Japanese political and religious leaders during their visit to Lumbini have iterated their support to Lumbini. Lumbini, thus, has become the instrument in bringing two countries closer in socio-cultural aspects (Dahal, 2012, pp. 15-18).

### **Japan and Nepal as Worshipper of Peace**

In international forums, both Japan and Nepal are the lovers and worshippers of peace. King Birendra during his state visit to Japan on May 21, 1978 had stated that both the countries were trying to institutionalize peace and maintain world peace through the realization of the religious faiths and beliefs of Lord Buddha. In response to the statement given by King Birendra in May 1978 in Tokyo, the Japanese Prime Minister Fukuda further stated that "both the countries are the worshipper of peace and have their "common tradition, history, faith in religions and are the lovers of nature." The joint communiqué issued at the end of the visit on May 21, 1978 among other things, stated that cultural and educational exchanges have played crucial role in strengthening the existing bilateral ties (Dahal, 2012, pp. 15-18).

### **Lumbini as the Centre of Attraction for the Japanese Buddhists**

Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha is the pilgrimage centre/holiest place for the Japanese Buddhists. Every Japanese visited Lumbini. The growing number of Japanese Buddhist visiting Lumbini (almost  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the total visiting Lumbini) is one of the important aspects of the bilateral relations (Dahal, 2012, pp. 15-18).

## **Relations in the Fields of Art, Culture, Tradition and Language**

Both the countries have, in the present context, growing relations in different socio-cultural dimensions including in the field of art, culture, tradition, language (to mention a few). In the words of Kochi Aki, the chairperson of Japan-Nepal Society (JNS), the JNS has played significant role as a means or link to provide information about socio-cultural, religious and other fields of both the countries. Japan has developed finest culture by developing and modernizing them according to the need of the time and situation. For Nepal, it could also be useful because very many finest traditions are waiting for modernization (Barua, 2015, p. 5).

Moreover, the exchange of visits of artists, singers and actors (e.g. a group of 37 artists in Nepal in February 25-28, 1981; a group of fifteen artists to Japan in 1981 to participate in the Asian traditional Art Exhibition; to mention a few examples) of both the countries have further strengthened the socio-cultural ties between them (Dahal, 2012, pp. 15-18).

## **Cultural Heritage of Nepal Tied up with Japanese Traditional Culture**

Japan has rich cultural heritage which has attracted the whole world in the present day world (Karan, 2005, p. 5076). Japan, a rich country in Far East, has been blessed with rich nature and astonishing cultural properties and thus the country holds a considerably high number of sites (As of 2014 these are 18 cultural heritage sites in Japan) recognized by UNESCO as World Heritage Sites, many of whom are supported by Japan's diverse natural environment and its four seasons climate. Among the sites of historical cultural heritage, there exist many buildings influenced by the unique sensitivities of the Japanese people, reflecting great insights into the roots of the rich cultures of Japan. In line with UNESCO's wishes to protect and preserve such heritage sites considered to be of understanding universal value to humanity, Japan is preserving these sites for future generations intending to

share them with people all over the world (INFOJAPAN, Vol. 38, August 2014, p. 6).

Nepal has enormous/adequate cultural heritages in different parts of the country which are also tied up with the Japanese traditional cultures. Both the countries are rich in traditional cultures, though Japan has very successfully modernized them according to the need of time and situation. Many Hindu gods and goddesses, including Indra, Ganesa, Swaraswati are also worshiped in Japan in different names.

### **Japanese Buddhist Monks Visiting Nepal and Tibet**

The historical records and evidences reveal that Japanese religious personalities have visited Nepal and Tibet since 19th century.

The Japanese Buddhist Monk Ekai Kawaguchi (1866-1945), and researcher on Buddhism was the first recorded Japanese citizen to visit Nepal in 1888 though he visited Nepal four times (1899, 1903, 1905 and 1913). His intention was to conduct research and study on Buddhism. In this connection, he had collected many sacred literatures on Buddhism. In 1903, Kawaguchi approached Prime Minister Chandra Shumsher Rana for his help in releasing Tibetan friends from jail in Lhasa, Tibet. One of the reasons for approaching the Nepalese government for help was that the Reverend felt Nepal trusted Japan as they had sent a group of students to Japan for study during that time. At the recommendation of the Prime Minister of Nepal, the Dalai Lama's government had released Kawaguchi's friends from jail. During his stay in Nepal, Kawaguchi met the Prime Minister on several occasions. Kawaguchi wrote a seventy-five page long letter to the Prime Minister which revealed his inner feelings concerning the conditions of the Nepalese society. He had prepared a development plan about Nepal, met Prime Minister Chandra Shumsher and provided suggestions for Nepal's development that included areas like education, of administration, emphasizing vocational education, establishment of industries, building of socio-economic infrastructures etc. He even raised the possibility for

the implementation of those plans into action. In order to respect him and his contribution to Nepal, the GoN published the postal stamp and Nepal, portrait of Kawaguchi to commemorate the first visit of Japanese citizens to Nepal (official website of Japanese Embassy to Nepal (Bagale, 2011, pp. 47-51).

### **Informal People to People Relations**

An informal people to people relation between Nepal and Japan is very old. The exchanges of visit of citizens between the two countries have a long history.

The exchange of informal visits between the two countries goes back to 1899 when a first Japanese citizen Ekai Kawaguchi in course of his visit to Tibet, arrived in Nepal. Similarly on his way to Tibet Bunkyo Aoki in 1912 visited Nepal. In 1913, three Japanese citizens- JunjiroTakakusa, RyuteiHasebe and Kawaguchi had visited Nepal. In 1933, two Japanese citizens- KousetsuNousu and Tetsuzo Ide visited Nepal. These unofficial informal visits of Japanese citizens have made the informal relations between the two countries cordial and friendly.

### **Cultural and Historical Identities between Nepal and Japan**

These two countries share many cultural and historical identities. The people of both the countries are curiously interested in sharing their feelings, experiences in promoting their ties in cultural, trade, economy and other sectors (<http://www.nepaljapansewa.com>). The joint communiqué published at the end of King Birendra's state visit to Tokyo, Japan on May 21, 1978, among other things, stressed the cultural and historical ties between them and "many values and traditions similar to each other (Sharma, 2010, pp. 248-249). The exchanges at the people to people are increasing in the present context in different fields/dimensions.

Analyzing the official mood, intention and gestures of the two countries and feelings of the peoples of the two countries, there exist a vast

prospect, reservoir of good will among the Japanese people towards Nepal and Nepal people towards Japan. Such positive and friendly thinking and feelings can be considered as important assets which could be further promoted and nourished further in enhancing friendship in the days to come (Barua, 2014, pp. 4-5).

### **Exchanges at People to People in the Present Context**

Exchanges at people to people level are one of the driving forces to further strengthening Nepal-Japan relations in the present context. Such exchanges include scholarships and technical training, sister-city relations, sister village relations (website of Japanese Embassy in Kathmandu). As a part of active people to people relations between the peoples of two countries, sister-city and sister villages relations and exchanges have been promoted and established between Kathmandu-Masumoto of Nagano prefecture and TukcheVDC-Toga. Sister-village relations between Tukche and Toga dates back to 1989. The two villages depended the friendship by conducting annual exchange of visits and accepting Toga. In addition, in April 2001 Pokhara and Komagane of Nagano prefecture signed an agreement friendship between the cities. After the affiliation, both cities have been jointly improving the Komagane friendship park, as symbol of the friendship, by providing a design for the park to beautify the area (Barua, 2014).

### **Associations and Organizations in Nepal and Japan**

A number of associations and organizations and friendship societies in both the countries are involved in promoting cultural relations between the two countries. Japan University Students Association Nepal (JUSAN), Japan Language Teachers' Association (JALTAN) JICA, Alumni Association of Nepal (JAAN), Nepal AOTS Alumni Society (NAAS), Nepal-Japan Friendship and Cultural Association (NJFC), Nepal-Japan Friendship Council (NJFC), Nepal-Japan Children Library (NJCL) and other institutions are active in Nepal in promoting informal people to people cultural relations between the

two countries. New such organizations and societies are gradually being established in both the countries.

Nepal-Japan Friendship Society (NJFS) was launched in Kathmandu on November 1, 2014 which intended to strengthen the cordial relationship between the two countries through mutual cooperation at citizens' level. Japan's continued support in Nepal's peace and development process and specific relations between the two countries were highlighted in the opening ceremony of the society. The visiting Japanese lawmaker Tsuruho Yosuke stated that the NJFS's initiatives would help explore more opportunities in strengthening bilateral co-operation between the two countries at citizen's level. NJFS is an extension to social organization namely Akafuji Daiko which has been working with Nepal for the last few years (The Himalayan Times, November 2, 2014, p. 2).

The cultural exchanges and friendship societies and associations have been important instrument in promoting socio-cultural ties between the two countries. Both Nepal and Japan place great importance on international cultural exchanges in various spheres including academic fields. In course of recognizing the fact that understanding and respecting different cultures among nations, Japan currently is actively promoting cultural exchanges, and cultural exchange programs at the bilateral and people's level. There are several friendship societies in Nepal and Japan which have played significant roles in promoting Nepal-Japan cultural relations. These societies and associations have contributed to promoting cultural ties; the contemporary culture has been widely introduced to Nepalese people including Ikebana traditional music, tea ceremony, graphic arts, etc.

Nepal and Japan friendship and cultural associations ([nac.edu.np/index.php.linkId=26](http://nac.edu.np/index.php.linkId=26)) have also played significant role in cementing bilateral relations in socio-cultural and religious sectors.

In the contemporary Nepal, both Japan and Nepal have encouraged the exchanges at people to people level. The exchanges of visits among students, youths, and intellectuals have been encouraged. The Nepalese government officials, academics, journalists, NGO leaders, youths were given opportunity to visit Japan in understanding of Japanese society and culture, as well as for strengthening the ties. Hundreds of students have been benefiting since then.

### **Japanese Cultural Grant Assistance to Nepal**

The Japanese cultural grant assistance to Nepal has become one of the important aspects of Japanese aid to Nepal under which the Government of Japan provides some equipment as grant assistance up to the sum of 500 million yen under its Cultural Grant Programme. For example, supply of sports equipment to National Sports Council, Printing equipment to the Royal Nepal Academy, Setting up of Japanese Language Learning Laboratory in Language Institute, Sound and Lighting Equipment to Kathmandu City Hall, Cultural and Educational Programme for Nepal TV, Display Equipment to National Museum etc. (HMG/N, MoFA, 1996, p. 13).

### **Promotion of Socio-cultural and Educational Activities in Nepal**

In order to promote socio-cultural and educational activities, Japanese Embassy in Kathmandu used to organize various programs including Japanese film festivals and Japan education fairs, to mention a few (INFOJAPAN, Embassy of Japan in Nepal, Vol. 37, March 2014). These activities have also played important role in further improving the bilateral relations.

### **Youth Exchange Programs between Nepal and Japan**

The youth exchange programs between Nepal and Japan has also become instrumental in further improving the bilateral ties. Japan had also encouraged the visits of Nepalese youths to Japan to participate in several Japanese seminars organized by Japan in its territories. Several such youth teams had visited in post-1990 days in particular.

A nine-member Nepalese delegation led by Mr. GovindaBhattarai left Kathmandu in January 1994 to attend a two month programme named "The Ship for World Youth 1994" sponsored by the government of Japan. The participants of this programme are young people from South Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Japan. The purpose of this programme was to foster the spirit of international co-operation and promote friendship and mutual understanding between youths of Japan and other parts of the world (HMG/N, MoFA, 1994, p. 7). This is just a representative list of such activities. Dozens of such groups have visited Japan.

### **Nepal-Japan Cultural Relations**

Nepal-Japan cultural relations have certain distinctive characteristics. In many respects, both the countries share common socio-cultural and religious values. Buddhism and Lumbini, the birth place of Lord Buddha have become important instruments in strengthening and cementing the existing socio-cultural and religious linkages/ties. Both the countries share common tradition history faith in religious beliefs and more important to these, the lovers of peace and nature. In the fields of arts, literatures, culture, traditions and languages, both the countries have many similarities. Both are rich in cultural heritage and traditional cultures. The Buddhist monks visiting Nepal have also become the instruments in promoting socio-cultural and religious relations between the two countries.

The informal people to people relations between them are also gradually increasing. Both the countries have their own unique and distinctive cultural and historical identities. The increasing people to people relations in different sectors are the attractions/charms and beauties of the bilateral relations.

The cultural exchanges between the two countries in different periods have also been particularly remarkable in this direction. In short, the growing socio-cultural and religious ties between the two countries have become one of



the important aspects/dimensions of overall Nepal-Japan relations in the present context.

## **6.2 Nepal-Japan Religious Relations**

Constitutionally both Nepal and Japan are secular states, though Nepal was regarded as world's only one Hindu state under Hindu monarch until 2007. Nepal was declared a secular federal democratic republic under the present interim constitution of Nepal, 2007 (GoN, 2000).

Hinduism is the largest religion practiced in Nepal followed by Buddhism (9.25% in 1961 and 10.74% in 2001). According to 2011 national census of Nepal, the Hindus (with 81.3% are the largest religious groups followed by the Buddhists (9%), Muslim (4.4%), Kirant (3.1%), Christian (1.4%) others (0.5%) and unspecified (0.2%) ([www.indexmundi.com](http://www.indexmundi.com/Nepal)>Facebook>Nepal). Religious tolerance among different religious groups is very high and is one of the religious characteristics of Nepal. Religiously, Nepal too has some characteristics.

Religiously, Japan has certain specific characteristics. Officially a secular state, majority Japanese practice Shintoism (54.1) followed by Buddhism (40.5%), Christianity (0.71) and minor religions including Shamanism, Islam and Hinduism. Religiously, Nepal and Japan can be good friends because of 40.5% of Japanese practicing Buddhism, which is the 2nd largest religion in Japan.

Nepal can mobilize the 40% Buddhists of Japan in the promotion of Buddhism in both the countries and can attract them in pilgrimage tourism in visiting Buddhist sacred places including Lumbini, Bouddha, Swayambhu and Mustang, which alone houses more than 50 Buddhist monasteries.

The spiritual link between Nepal-Japan relations is very powerful aspects of bilateral relation. Some of the Nepali gods and goddesses are also worshipped in Japan in different names and forms (Barua, 2014, pp. 4-5).

However, it has to be noted that the religious relations between the two countries have not been strictly determined by religious factor. Japan is a secular country and religion is not the basis of relationship between the two countries- Nepal and Japan.

### **6.3 Educational Relations between Nepal and Japan**

Japan's education system has played significant role in the recovery and economic modernization of the nation. In post-Second World War period, Japan reformed its education system mainly to the German and French model which experts regarded as most suitable and advantageous for Japan also ([www.japan-guide.com/e/e2150.html](http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2150.html)). Japan also borrowed ideas from the UK, Germany, France and the US and fused them into the design of a whole new education system for Japan ([www.ncee.org/programs-affiliates/center...education.../japan-overview](http://www.ncee.org/programs-affiliates/center...education.../japan-overview)). The Japanese education system in today's world, thus, is supposed to be one of the most advanced and developed one in the world in respect to quality.

Nepal, on the other hand, is backward in respect to quality scientific and technical education though the literacy rate in the 21<sup>st</sup> century has increased. Nepal lacks quality education, though the private English medium schools/colleges have been trying to provide quality education within the country. In this context, Japan's further educational co-operation to Nepal would be helpful for the development of skilled human resource though Japan is providing scholarship in the present context also.

Nepal-Japan educational relation is one of the important dimensions/areas of contemporary bilateral relations between the two countries, without whose absence the study of bilateral relations would be incomplete. The promotion of understanding, providing scholarship to Nepalese students to study in Japanese Universities, technical training, intercity relations and NGO activities, promotion of cultural exchanges, to

mention few, are some of the important characteristics of Nepal-Japan contemporary relations ([www.np.emb-japan.go.jp/relation.pdf](http://www.np.emb-japan.go.jp/relation.pdf), pp. 7-16).

Japan in post-1956 period has been playing very significant role in the development of human resources of Nepal in a number of ways including providing scholarships to Nepalese students studying in different Japanese Universities and providing different professional training to Nepalese citizens in a number of areas. In course of promoting people's exchanges between the two countries, Japan has been providing scholarships and technical training to Nepalese students in different respected Universities of Japan.

Japan has started providing technical training to Nepalese since 1956. Scholarships have been provided for university students by the Government of Japan since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1956. As a result, every year Nepalese student's for higher studies in Japan and getting technical training in Japan. Nepalese who have studied in become Japan and have acquainted with Japan; they have organized the Japan University Students Association, Nepal (JUSAN) and JICA Alumni and have played a vital role in promoting mutual understanding between the two countries.

### **Japanese Support to the Development of Human Resources in Nepal**

Japan's education system has played significant role in the recovery and economic modernization of the nation. In post-Second World War period, Japan reformed its education system mainly to the German and French model which experts regarded as most suitable and advantageous for Japan also ([www.japan-guide.com/e/e2150.html](http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2150.html)). Japan also borrowed ideas from the UK, Germany, France and the US and fused them into the design of a whole new education system for Japan ([www.ncee.org/programs-affiliates/center...education.../japan-overview](http://www.ncee.org/programs-affiliates/center...education.../japan-overview)). The Japanese education system in today's world, thus, is supposed to be one of the most advanced and developed one in the world in respect to quality.

## **Nepalese Students in Japan (1902)**

The educational relation between the two countries dates back to Rana period (1902). In 1902 the Government of Nepal had dispatched a group of eight Nepalese youth for higher studies in different disciplines- Mining, Mechanical Engineering, Agriculture and Sericulture. The youths who ranged in age between 18 to entourage of seventeen attendants, left Nepal in April and reached Yokohama, the first Nepalese nationals to land in Japan.

The Rana rulers Chandra and DevShumsher had chosen Japan for higher studies seeing Japan's progress in Asia. They were impressed by Japan's development activities and education in the world. Prime Minister DevShumsherRana was impressed by Japan's educational progress in 19th century- education for all and industrialization schemes. The educational and living costs in Japan were borne by Nepal. They were also the first Nepali students to go overseas for study. They studied subjects like technology. Mining Agriculture; Mechanical Engineering, Ceramic Vase and Chemistry, they returned home in 1905 and were given employment in their respective fields. These students had after they returned back to Nepal from Japan, had significant role in the technological development of Nepal (Bagale, 2011, pp. 47-50).

## **Scholarships to Nepalese Students to Study in Japan**

Japan in the present context has played significant role in the development of human resources needed for the all-round development of Nepal by providing scholarships to Nepalese students to study in Japan. During the Panchayat period (1962-1989), Japan provided scholarships to Nepalese students providing opportunities to them to study different subjects in different Japanese Universities.

The restoration of multiparty democracy in 1990 after the collapse of nonparty rule did not make any difference in this direction. In post 1990 days, Japan continued its, educational support to Nepal under which it provided scholarships to few more students to get higher education in different Japanese Universities.

The restoration of democracy after the collapse of direct rule of King Gyanendra did not make any change in Japanese mood and intention. In post-April 2006 days, few more scholarship were added.

In the present context, Japan provides scholarships to Nepalese students who have contributed to the all-round development of the nation as high level skilled human resources. Altogether 3059 Nepalese trainees (till February 2003) have received training in various subjects. The annual number of Japanese scholarships provided to Nepal in different fields is altogether/approximately 125 (IFA, 2004, pp. 37-38).

The total number of Nepali students during 2006 to 2013 is given below:

**Table- 6.1: Nepali Students in Japan**

| Year | Total No. of Nepali Students |            |        |       |        |       | Nepali Students |            |
|------|------------------------------|------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|-----------------|------------|
|      | Total No.                    | Increase % | Male   | %     | Female | %     | No.             | Increase % |
| 2006 | 7,844                        | -          | 5,528  | 70.47 | 2,316  | 29.53 | 1,138           | -          |
| 2007 | 9,384                        | 19.63      | 6,657  | 70.94 | 2,727  | 29.06 | 1,298           | 22.85      |
| 2008 | 12,286                       | 20.92      | 8,814  | 71.74 | 3,472  | 28.26 | 1,554           | 11.16      |
| 2009 | 15,255                       | 24.17      | 10,779 | 70.66 | 4,476  | 29.34 | 1,681           | 8.17       |
| 2010 | 15,525                       | 14.88      | 12,013 | 68.55 | 5,512  | 31.45 | 3,022           | 79.77      |
| 2011 | 20,383                       | 16.31      | 13,647 | 66.95 | 6,736  | 33.05 | 3,589           | 18.76      |
| 2012 | 24,465                       | 20.03      | 16,080 | 65.73 | 8,385  | 34.27 | 4,793           | 33.55      |
| 2013 | 28,005                       | 14.47      | 18,454 | 65.90 | 9,551  | 34.10 | 6,466           | 34.91      |

**Source:** Statistics Bureau of Japan (2013).

These students were employed in technical and non-technical sectors. Nepal, in this context, has also to request Japan to provide more scholarships to Nepalese students in Japanese universities in the changed context.

In post-1990 and more specifically in post-2006, when the distribution of passports became easier (before it was monopolized by Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Japan has become an important destination for higher education for Nepalese students. A statistics reveal that altogether twenty thousand Nepalese currently are living in Japan and many of whom are students (Bagale, 2011, pp. 47-50).

### **The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations in Japan**

The Nepalese students studying in Japan celebrated 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary with great pump and show to mark the growing educational relations between the two countries in the field of education. The Nepalese students studying in Japan in different universities have contributed much for the all round development of Nepal. The Japan University Students Association Nepal (JUSAN) (a group of students who have returned back to Nepal, after completing their studies in Nepal, is playing significant role in this direction.

### **The Japanese Scholarships and Support to the Technical Training**

Japan has played role in the development of skilled manpower in Nepal according to which Japan started providing technical training to Nepalese since Japan joined the Colombo Plan in 1954. Scholarships have been provided for university students by the Government of Japan since the early 1960s, a few years after the establishment of diplomatic relations. As a result, every year many Nepalese return home after completing their study, research and JICA's technical training in Japan. Nepalese who have become acquainted with Japanese society and culture, have organized the Japan University Students Association, Nepal (JUSAN) and JICA Alumni

Association, Nepal (JAAN) respectively and have played a vital role in promoting mutual informal understanding between the people and societies of the two countries and promoting people to people relations (<http://www.np.emb-japan.go.jp/scholarship.html>).

### **School Visit Programs in Districts of Nepal**

The Japanese embassy, aiming at promoting Japan's support to the school children residing in remote areas of Nepal used to organize visit program to schools of Nepal including for the deaf students in Baglung and Mustang to mention a few (INFOJAPAN, Vol. 38, August 2014, p. 4). These visits would help to understand the real educational situation in Nepal.

Japan's educational support for "Education for all" (an agenda developed by the UNESCO initially) has been very useful in Nepal which includes the construction of primary school buildings in remote rural Nepal (Khanal, 2012). The Japanese assistance also included in the school sector reform programs in Nepal in different forms by providing direct grant assistance to schools; and assistance for the project for improving environmental sanitation facilities to school children in some VDCs of Nepal (<http://www.np.emb-japan.go.jp/>).

### **MEXT Scholarship to Nepalese Students**

Every year, Japan awards MEXT scholarships to some Nepalese students for studying higher education in different universities of Japan. The Embassy of Japan, in Co-operation with Japanese Universities Alumni Association, Nepal (JUAAN) used to organizes a pre-departure orientation program for the scholarship grantees with an intention to provide them practical advice on a wide range of subjects as preparing for study and providing general information about Japan (INFOJAPAN, Vol. 38, Aug., 2014, p. 41).



## **Development of Japanese Language Skills and Training in Nepal**

The Japanese language training in Nepal can also play crucial role in the attraction of tourists from Japan. The Japanese Embassy in Kathmandu is contributing in this direction by arranging providing cultural promotional program occasionally. The Department of Japanese language at College of International language in Kathmandu is also making important contribution in the promotion of Nepal-Japan ties at the informal people to people levels (Bagale, 2011, p. 49).

## **Improving Japanese Language Skills in Nepal**

Japan Foundation every year invitees overseas teachers of Japanese language to Japan to provide them an opportunity to improve the Japanese language skills, teaching methodology and deepen their knowledge of Japan. Teachers' training programs are also organized (INFOJAPAN, Vol. 38, August 2014, p. 5)

The Japanese Language Teachers' Association, Nepal (JALTAN) in co-operation with the Embassy of Japan and with the support of the Japan Foundation, since 1981, has been organizing Japanese language speech context to encourage Japanese language learners to strive for greater excellence and enhance the understanding and relationship between Japan and Nepal (INFOJAPAN, Vol. 38, August 2014, p. 5).

## **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Japan**

The year 2002 was marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Japan marking the beginning of the next centennial for friendly relation and programming the commemorative events is being organized by the Japan University Students Association, Nepal (JUSAN). (Website of Embassy of Japan in Kathmandu). The Embassy of Japan and Japan University Students Association, Nepal (JUSAN) jointly celebrated 100 year

anniversary of Nepali Students in Japan. These activities have further strengthened the existing socio-cultural ties between the two countries.

### **Japanese Support in Providing Educational Opportunities to Children in Nepal**

Japan has been providing educational support in providing educational opportunities for children in Nepal. Japan has provided grant assistance in the construction of altogether 5500 classrooms in the primary schools of Nepal, including in the remote villages ones under basic and Primary Education Project (BPEP)-I (94-98) and BPEP-II (1999-2002) (IFA, 2004, p. 38).

The educational relationships between the two countries have long history. Japan has provided support to Nepalese students to study in Japan during the Rana period. Japan has played significant role in the development of skilled human resources in Nepal.

After the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1956, Japan has active interest in the development and promotion of human resources in Nepal. During the Panchayat period, Japan started providing scholarships to Nepalese students who received higher education in different Japanese Universities.

The educational relations between the two countries in the present context have been very cordial and friendly. Japan is playing very significant role in the development and training of human resources in Nepal by providing scholarships and training opportunities to Nepalese students to study in Japanese Universities which have become very fruitful in the all round development of the nation.

This has led to the production of high skilled human resources in Nepal. A large number of students (total twenty thousand living in Japan now many of them are students studying in Japanese universities) are enjoying the educational opportunities granted by Japan under scholarship programs. Japan

currently is the destination of many Nepalese students and it has become important attractions to them.

Japan has also been providing educational support to Nepal in the construction of primary school building in the remote rural villages. This has contributed, for the development of rural education in Nepal. The School Sector Reform Programs are another attraction in this direction which intends to provide environmental sanitation facilities to school children in remote VDCs of Nepal.

## CHAPTER VII

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 7.1 Summary and Conclusion

The major findings of this research have been presented in here:

Nepal and Japan had informal relations/people to people contact since the 19th century when the Buddhist monks in course of their travelling to Tibet visited Nepal. Nepal and Japan formally established diplomatic relations in 1956. Both the countries established permanent embassies in each other's countries and the relations have become cordial and friendly. During the time of King Tribhuvan (1951-54), no important development took place in this direction. King Mahendra (1955-72) has played very significant role in the formulation of Nepal's foreign policy. He also played crucial role in establishing diplomatic relations with countries of the world including Japan in 1956. It was he who took initiation in the establishment of permanent embassies in both the countries, which played important role in strengthening the existing ties. During the period of first multiparty experiment (1951-1960), King Mahendra came closer to the emperor of Japan. The two monarchies became instrumental in establishing and promoting bilateral ties, and taking the relationship to new height.

During this period (1951-60), King Mahendra and Queen Ratna paid state visit to Japan and the Japanese princess and princess visited Nepal. This visit strengthened the existing relations between the two countries. During the Panchayat period (1961-89), King Mahendra (1961-72) gave priority in Nepal's relations with big powers, including Japan. The political relations during his time remained cordial and friendly. During the period of King Birendra (1972-89), the Panchayat system maintained good and cordial relations with Japan. The exchange of high level political visits between the two countries, including the state visit of Japan by King Birendra and Queen

Aisorya, took the political relations to new height. During the Panchayat period under King Birendra (1972-1989), Japan government also gave priority in its relation with Nepal and permanent embassies were established in Kathmandu. Important Japanese authorities also visited Nepal.

The political relations between the two countries under the second multiparty parliamentary experiment (1990-2005) remained cordial; the systemic change in Nepal (in 1990, April 2006) did not bring any change in Japanese mood and interests. The assassination of King Birendra and his family created confusions and suspicions in domestic and foreign policy of Nepal. But this did not have impact of existing Nepal Japan political relation. During the period of King Gyanendra's direct rule period (2005 March 2006), Nepal Japan political relations remained undisturbed. The exchanges of visits between the two countries continued as usual. In post-April 2006 days, when CPN-Maoist emerged as one of the strong political force in Nepalese politics, the making of interim constitution was completed by the political parties including the newly emerged CPN-Maoist. Japan easily adjusted with the change in regime in Kathmandu and continued its support to Nepal even in post-2006 days. The first meeting of the CA in April 2008 declared Nepal a federal democratic republic abolishing the institution of Kingship. But the change in regime did not affect the bilateral Nepal-Japan relations. The political relations remained as usual and the exchange of high level visits continued during this period also.

Nepal-Japan economic relation is one of the important aspects of overall bilateral relations. In post-1956 periods, Japan has been providing economic and assistance to Nepal to promote its socio-economic development. Japanese aid to Nepal can be categorized into broad 3 subheadings, Japanese grant in aid, technical co-operation and ODA loan to Nepal. Under economic and technical co-operation, under Japanese ODA in Nepal nine projects in social sector including the establishment and expansion of TU Teaching

Hospital and expansion of Kanti Children Hospital were completed. Similarly under Japan's ODA in Nepal, ten agricultural based programs were completed. Japan also played significant role in the development of economic infrastructures in Nepal. Nearly eighteen such projects were so far completed which among other things; include Kuekhani Hydroelectric Project and Udyapur Cement Plant Project.

Japanese aid has played dominant role in the protection of environment; consequently, three such projects were so far completed. A number of technical co-operation projects, grant aid projects, Japanese ODA loan projects are still ongoing. Nepal-Japan socio-cultural relations are other important aspects of bilateral relations. Both the countries share common socio-cultural values through there are similarities and dissimilarities between the two societies. Japan has played important role in the construction of Lumbini, the birth place of Lord Buddha which is instrumental in bringing the two countries and their people together. Both Japan and Nepal are the supporters of world peace and worshipper of peace. The growing relations between the two countries and their people in the fields of arts, culture tradition and language have taken the bilateral relations to new height. The cultural heritage and Japanese traditional culture have relations, which can become the means to expand the areas of bilateral relations in future. Buddhist monks have become instrumental in promotion socio-cultural relations between the two countries. The people to people informal relations have further improved the bilateral relations.

Japan has also played important role in the development of human resources of Nepal in a number of ways including providing scholarships to Nepalese students in studying in different universities of Japan. Japan has also been supporting primary schools by constructing school building and providing educational materials and teachers' training in Japanese language. In short, Nepal Japan relations in the present contemporary world, has been very

cordial and friendly and the relations has been cemented with the high level visits taking place in post-1956 days. The embassies in Tokyo and Kathmandu have been instrumental in further cementing the relationships and taking it to new height. The messages exchanged occasionally at head of the state and head of the government levels have further nourished the ties. The economic support provided by Japan to Nepal in the form of grant/aid, loan technical assistance soft loan, material support further tightened the existing bilateral relations. The cultural ties between the two countries at people level have further added charms, beauties and attraction in the existing relationships. Japan's educational supports to Nepal in the form of scholarships to Nepalese students to study in different universities of Japan have led to the development of human resources of Nepal. In recent years, the Japanese educational support to primary schools in remote areas in different forms including the construction of physical infrastructures and training to the teachers of Japanese language have further tightened the existing ties.

Nepal and Japan have many similarities, though they have a number of dissimilarities too. Despite their physical distance, Nepal and Japan are close neighbors having cultural heritage and bonds since decades. Geographically, they have different characteristics. Historically, both Nepal and Japan have enjoyed independence and were never colonized by western powers, when almost the whole worlds were compelled to taste the bitter taste of colonialism and imperialism. Culturally, both the countries have many similarities in their societies which can be utilized for strengthening bilateral relations between them. Economically, Nepal has to get a lot from Japan, which is the third largest economic superpower in the world. Economically, Nepal has to successfully attract Japanese aid and assistance in its socio-economic development in the present context. Religiously, Buddhism is the second largest religious group in Japan (40.5%) after Shintoism (54.1%). This factor may be one of instruments in cementing the bilateral relations between the two

countries culturally; both Japan and Nepal are regarded as the richest countries in the world.

Technically, Japan is one of the most advanced countries in the world. Japan's progress in science and technology has helped in its modernization programs in many ways. Nepal is far behind in respect to science and technology. In this context, Nepal's relation with Japan becomes highly important particularly for Nepal, because of its backwardness in this direction.

Politically, Nepal and Japan have many similarities. Both of them are practicing British model parliamentary system with nominal head of the state and strong/affective head of the government. The political characteristics of liberal democracies including global values of democracy are found in both the societies, though Japan is regarded as one of the stabilized and matured democracy in the world (though there were frequent changes in government and have political instability. Since 1993 onwards, there have been government instability) and within 20 years, there have been fourteen government changes in Japan.

Constitutionally, both Japan and Nepal have accepted the global values of democracy including civil rights/human rights, freedom of press, vibrant media, rule of law, independent judiciary, to mention a few.

In the field of international relations, both Japan and Nepal are the active players in international politics and are the members of a number of regional and international organizations including the UN. Japan, as the member of group of four, is strongly advocating for the democratization and restructuring of the UN. Japan is globally, noted for its civilized diplomacy. Educationally, Japan is an advanced country noted in the world for quality education and technical and scientific education, whereas Nepal is far behind in this respect. Psychologically, the Japanese people have high sentiments of nationalism, patriotism and love to the nation and the people. The Japanese people are regarded as most civilized, polite and disciplined people in the world.



In post-1956 days, when both the countries established diplomatic relations, the bilateral ties between them have remained very close, cordial and mutually satisfying. The informal relation between them dates back to a hundred years when the informal contacts (people to people contact) between the peoples of the two countries existed in different forms.

The political relations between the two countries remained cordial after the two countries established diplomatic relation in 1956. During the period of King Tribhuvan (1951-54), no important development took place in this direction. King Mahendra (1955-1972) played very significant role in establishing diplomatic relations with many countries of the world, including Japan in 1956. King Mahendra and Queen Ratna's formal state visit to Japan in 1960, Japanese Crown Prince Akihito and Princess Michiko's visit to Nepal brought the two countries closer. The monarchies of the two countries became instrumental in establishing and improving bilateral relations between two monarchical countries. Japan established its residential embassy in Kathmandu in 1968 with Hichi Machikira as Japan's first residential ambassador to Kathmandu. Nepal had already established its residential embassy in Tokyo in 1956. In 1956, the Nepalese Prime T.P. Acharya for the first time visited Japan, which tried to take the bilateral relations to new heights.

During the period of King Mahendra (1962-70), Nepal Japan political relations became very cordial. The Panchayati government, under King Mahendra (1962-1970), gave top priority in its relations with Japan. During this period, the exchanges of high level political visits were marked which further strengthened the existing bilateral relations.

The visits of Japanese prince and Princess to Kathmandu (February 26, 1970) and King Mahendra and Queen Ratna's visit to Tokyo (in 1970) undoubtedly strengthened the relations between the two countries.

During the period of King Birendra (1972-1989), the relations between the two countries became warmer and cordial. As crown prince, Birendra had

studied in Tokyo University. During this period, high level Nepalese and Japanese political dignitaries had visited each other's country taking the bilateral relations to new heights. King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya themselves visited Japan (state visit) in May 1978 and exchanged views with Japanese political and ruling elites including the Japanese Emperor. King Birendra was also diplomatically successful in getting unconditional support to his Zone of Peace (ZoP) proposal from Japan.

With the change in regime in Nepal in 1990, the bilateral relations between the two countries remained undisturbed and Japan adjusted with the political change in Nepal. In post-1990 days also, the exchange of high level visits of political dignitaries of both the countries were marked which took the existing relations to new directions. Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's visit to Nepal (1991) was a landmark event in the history of bilateral relations.

The visit of Hashimoto, the chairperson of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan (January 5-8, 1994) to Nepal was one of the important events in this period. During the celebration of 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, both the Prime Ministers Sher Bahadur Deuba and Ryutaro Hashimoto exchanged messages giving much importance to the bilateral relations between them.

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori's visit to Nepal in 2000 and former Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's visit to Nepal (2007) were some of the important events in the history of Nepal-Japan relations during this period. Prime Minister G.P. Koirala's state visit to Japan (Nov., 1998) further strengthened the bilateral ties between the two countries. In post-April 2006 days also, high level political dignitaries including Kishi, Parliamentary Vice Minister for Defense, visited Nepal.

The important Japanese political dignitaries visiting Nepal from Japan in post-2006 days included Yasuhisa Shiozaki, Senior Vice-Minister for

Foreign Affairs (2006), Takahide Kimura, Senior Vice-Minister for Defense (2007), Osamu Uno, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Parliamentarians Taakahido Ito and Gaku Hashimoto (2008), Kishi, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Defense (2009), Matsumoto, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Defense (2011), Gemba, Minister for Foreign Affairs (2012) and Kihara, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs (2014).

Similarly, the important Nepalese dignitaries visiting Japan from Nepal included Finance Minister Dr. Ramsharan Mahat (2007), Foreign Minister Mrs. Shahana Pradhan (2007), Finance Minister Dr. Babu Ram Bhattarai (2009), Minister for Labour and Transport Management Alam (2009), Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation Bhandari (2010), Minister for General Administration Shrestha (2010), Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shrestha (2012), CEO of the Investment Board Pant (2012), Finance Minister Pun (2012), Minister for Youth and Sports and Minister for Peace and Reconstruction Shrestha (2013).

At political level, the periodic exchanges of visits of members of royal family of both the countries and high level political dignitaries have greatly contributed to the promotion and strengthening of bilateral ties. King Mahendra, King Birendra and Crown Prince and Princesses from Nepal, Crown Prince and Princesses from Japan and the Prime Ministers of the two countries (e.g. Japanese Prime Minister Mori in 2000) have visited each other countries making the relations more cordial and friendly.

In post-1990 and even in post-April 2006, the relations between the two countries even flourished to new heights. In post-April 2006 and more specifically in post-April 2008 days, the elected governments of Nepal gave importance to its relations with Japan. The exchanges of visits at political level can be considered as important events in the history of bilateral relations.

The political leaders between the two countries in post-2006 days remained very cordial with exchange of high level visits between the two

countries. In post-2008 periods (when Nepal became a republic), Japan adjusted its relations with Nepal with the changed political context. The internal political changes (e.g. systemic changes) did not bring any effect on Japanese mood interest and intention in Nepal.

The economic ties between the two countries are equally important in this direction. Japan in the present context is the key donor countries to provide generous aid (aid without any political interests attached to it) in different forms including in the form of grant, credit and technical support. Japan's official development assistance in post-1956 days was involved in the socio-economic development activities of Nepal, Japan's economic aid and assistance can be classified under Japanese grant assistance credit assistance and technical assistance to Nepal which have been contributing much for the economic development of Nepal in a number of ways.

Japan currently is supporting in the economic development of Nepal in a number of sectors and ways including in agriculture, education, health human resources development, transportation and communication, electricity generation (including rural electrification), ground water development (to mention a few).

Japan is one of the most important largest donor countries which have played significant role in the all round development of Nepal by providing economic assistance to Nepal including important three components- grant assistance, credit assistance and technical assistance. Japan's financial assistance is provided both in specific project financing and program support.

Japanese Grant in Aid in some including its grant in aid to the extension of transportation and communication networks in Nepal, modernization of Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) micro-hydropower development. The technical support includes the services of Japanese experts, fellowships and equipment support and the development of human resources in Nepal.

Japanese technical assistance to Nepal is one of the components of Japanese to Nepal under which Japan provides technical co-operation to Nepal with the dispatch of Japan overseas co-operation volunteers (JOCVS) in implementing/handling technical co-operation projects. Japan is also providing volunteers' service as part of technical support to meet Nepal's need of medium level human resources. In post-1995 days, Japan has dispatched 1400 technical experts and 838 JOCVS.

The Japanese economic and technical supports include a number of areas and dimensions including in environmental sector and in technical sector in the contemporary Nepal. In general, the Japanese aid has been utilized in a number of areas including in agriculture, health, education, rural, water supply, radio transmission, extension of transportation networks, electricity generation (including in rural areas), ground water development and the development of skilled and trained human resources.

Under Japan's ODA policy to Nepal, Nepal is receiving aid in different dimensions of economy including in hydro electric projects and the development of power sector (e.g. in Kaligandaki A and Kulekhani), health activities, agricultural development, providing safe drinking water, building educational institutions, project improving livelihood of farmers through environmentally harmonizing agriculture in hill districts, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), developing infrastructures in transportation and communication sectors, support in food and human security aspects.

Moreover, Japan is also providing financial and material support for natural calamities, joint economic ventures, and debt relief measures. The arrival of Japanese tourists in Nepal is one of new but important areas that contribute to the strengthening of existing bilateral economic ties.

Japan's aid to the development of human resources, and in the development of economic infrastructures in Nepal, economic and technical support in social sector, and particularly important.

Japan has also provided economic aid in strengthening and institutionalizing democratic polity in Nepal by providing aid assistance to 2nd CA elections and in providing equipment regarding election. Japanese cultural grant aid to Nepal, non-project grant aid to Nepal, ongoing ODA loan support to project soft loan to Nepal are other aspects in this direction.

Japan's commodity assistance to Nepal, Japan's emergency food aid and assistance to Nepal-Japan Joint Economic Ventures, Nepal-Japan trade, arrival of Japanese tourists in Nepal are some other aspects of Japanese aid to Nepal. The bilateral trade relations are also increasing though the trade balance is in Japan's favour. The growing number of Japanese tourists is further attraction in the bilateral relations.

The socio-cultural, educational and religious relations between the two countries are equally important aspects of overall relations between the two countries.

Nepal and Japan have socio-cultural relations too. Both the countries, in many cases, share common socio-cultural values and have, thus have strengthened the bilateral relation between them. The sharing of common socio-cultural values; Japan's support in the construction of Lumbini, the birth place of Lord Buddha, peace loving nature of both Japan and Nepal in international relation; relations between the two countries in the fields of art, culture, tradition and language, the cultural heritage and Japanese traditional culture are some other areas where the two countries have developed bilateral relations and can further improve their cordial relations the visits by Buddhist monks in different periods have further strengthened the existing religious ties between the two countries. The exchanges at people to people level, youth exchange programs, promotion of socio-cultural and educational activities under Japanese, co-operation are some other aspects of Nepal-Japan socio-cultural relations.

A Nepal-Japan educational relation is one of the important aspects of the bilateral relations. Japan has been playing very significant role in the development of human resources in Nepal by providing scholarships to Nepalese students for higher education in Japanese universities. The Japanese government is also providing financial support to the schools at remote areas. The providing of technical training to Nepalese in different subjects by Japan and Japan's support to environmental sanitation facilities to school children in remote areas are some other important aspects of educational relations between them.

## **7.2 Recommendations**

Nepal-Japan bilateral relations should travel beyond the current existing relationships. In order to further tighten/strengthen the existing bilateral relations between the two countries and preserve its beauty in the days to come, a number of practical recommendations could be put forward which, for convenience, can be broadly classified as political, economic, socio-cultural, educational strategic and others.

### **7.2.1 Political Recommendations**

No doubts, since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, the political and diplomatic relations have always been cordial or what Dahal (2064, pp. 209-218) says "an ideal model relations between the two countries." To preserve its beauty in future, the two countries have to form a review committee at political level to review the existing political relations outlining its characteristics, strong/plus points and weaknesses; so that such problems/challenges/weaknesses can be removed in future and such things could not be repeated again in the history of existing relationships between them. Such committees can be formed within the Foreign Ministries of both the countries and a separate joint review committee comprising the

representatives of both the countries could also be formed which could meet either six-monthly or once a year compulsorily.

### **Maximum Use of Potentialities**

In the context of deepening friendship and expanding co-operation between the two countries, the full potentialities of the existing bilateral relations have to be realized in the present globalized. Nepal to be particularly keen in this respect to enjoy the support given by Japan in all sectors.

### **Continued Political Dialogues for Exploring New Prospects of Relationship**

In the context of Nepal becoming a federal democratic republic, continued political dialogues have to be held (on regular basis) to explore new and further prospects for further relations in different dimensions. The prospects for establishing strategic relationship between them would be helpful for Nepal in future and given the context that Nepal and problems in the field of security is facing dozens of challenges.

### **Strategic Relationship/Partnership and Co-operation**

Nepal, in post-April 2006, is involving in a number of controversial political issues including state restructuring, federalism, identity politics, ethno and regional politics, creating several politico-economic and ethnic challenges, tensions and chaos. Nepal is also facing several internal and external threats from a number of terrorist, armed and groups and gangs promoting criminal activities in the name of state restructuring, participation democratization and human rights.

Under such situation, Nepal-Japan strategic relationship/partnership and co-operation, as Sharma (2010, pp. 159-207) views, would help in enhancing Nepal's existing capabilities to face such challenges, issues and problems and would also contribute to state and democracy building in Nepal in the present changed political context.



It is advisable for Nepal, as Sharma (2010 pp. IX-X) views, "to explore prospects of strategic partnership between them in the mutual interests of both the countries and people." Such interests have to be properly identified in the present changed political context.

### **Lessons for Nepal from Japan/Sharing Japanese Experiences in Nepal's Development**

Economically, Japan is a highly advanced industrial economy and currently is the 3rd largest economy in the world. Politically speaking, Japan is one of the matured democracies in the eastern world. The visionary political leadership of Japan may be a lesson for Nepalese leaders who lack visionary leadership and strong commitment for promoting economic and political institutions and processes that could address the real issues of the people. Nepal, thus, can learn many things from Japan and share their experiences in building state and democracy in Nepal. The ability of Nepal to learn lessons from Japanese political and economic history/experiment would help in many respects for Nepal.

### **Exchanges of Important Visits at Political Level**

The exchanges of important visits at political level including political parties, members of their sister organizations, professors/teachers Journalist and lawyers would also help to learn about Japanese political process and thereby, further improve the relations and help to institutionalize democratic polity in Nepal.

### **7.2.2 Economic Recommendations**

As Japan is one of the topmost countries in the list of countries providing economic aid to Nepal, Nepal-Japan economic relation has become one of the most sensitive issue and area of priority in the history of Nepalese economic foreign policy. To preserve the beauty/charm of existing economic relations between the two countries, a number of things could be done in future.

### **Promotion of Bilateral Trade**

The formation of a joint economic committee comprising the representatives of business groups, private parties would be helpful in the present globalized context to promote bilateral trade between them. The joint committee can find out/make research in the items of exporting/importing goods from each other's countries in short, promoting trade between them.

### **Regular Review/Monitor of Japanese Aided Projects/Programs in Nepal**

In order to make the maximum and proper use of Japanese aid to Nepal, occasional meetings in both the country have to be arranged to critical assess the status of aid amount in Nepal.

### **Attracting Japanese Tourists to Visit Nepal/Promotion of Tourism in Nepal**

All the stakeholders related to the development of tourism in Nepal. Government bodies (e.g. Department of Tourism, Tourism Development Board etc.) and non-government private/public bodies including the trekking offices) have to improve their relations with similar institutions in Japan and make international advertisement demonstrating Nepal's tourist based spots/attractions and appeal the Japanese to visit Nepal. Nepalese Embassy in Japan has to demonstrate all those things as part of economic diplomacy and contribute in the generation of tourism based income in Nepal. Nepal has also promoted economic diplomacy in this direction.

### **Promotion of Pilgrimage Tourism**

As Buddhist country, the Japanese people have high respect to Lord Buddha and Lumbini, the birth place of Lord Buddha. Nepal can formulate some practical plans and increase facilities in Lumbini to attract the religious tourists in Lumbini and increase their days of stay there. Lord Buddha and Lumbini would be the biggest links to further strengthen the existing socio-cultural and religious relations between the two countries.

### **Formation of Joint Economic Committee/Commission to Monitor/Promote Economic Relation between the Two Countries**

In order to overcome the evils and to protect the charm/beauty of the existing bilateral relations, a joint economic committee to monitor the events relating to bilateral relations can be formed comprising the authorities of both the countries which might occasionally/regularly meet and review the economic relations between them.

### **Attempt for the Promotion of Japanese and to the Proper Utilization of Nepal's Existing Water Resources and Electrification/Electricity Generation**

As Japan is the third largest economic superpower in the world, Nepal can assure/convince Japan (through its effective and matured diplomacy) for the proper Japanese funding in the utilization of Nepal's existing water resources and in the generation of power/electricity including the micro-ones.

### **Promotion of Joint Ventures in Nepal**

As Nepal is one of the least developed and landlocked countries in the world, the success of Nepalese foreign policy and diplomacy lies in promoting joint venture economic activities in Nepal. Nepal has to assure the Japanese private sector the government and the stakeholders to freely invest their capital in Nepal. The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), thus, would become an effective instrument for the socio-economic development of Nepal.

#### **7.2.3 Social Recommendations**

In order to further strengthen the existing bilateral relations and preserve its beauty, a number of social recommendations could be put forward:

#### **Learning from Japanese Society**

The Nepalese society which is more traditional and transitional and struggling to become modern can learn from Japanese society, which is highly

modern, cultured and westernized. The Japanese society is very dynamic and the Nepalese people have to learn from them about how to bring changes in society and modernize it according to the need of the time and situation. The promotion of people to people informal relations and their exchange of visits would also help in this direction.

### **Promotion of Relations among Socio-cultural Institutions of both the Countries**

A number of socio-cultural institutions and Nepal-Japan Societies are operating in both the countries. These institutions have to be instrumental in further strengthening the existing socio-cultural ties between the two countries which would contribute to bring both the countries closer in socio-cultural respects/aspects.

#### **7.2.4 Educational Recommendations**

As Japan is one of the most advanced countries in the world in respect to education, science and technology and is the third richest country in the world, Nepal has to convince Japan to provide more scholarships, exchange programs and technical education/training and contribute to the development of human resources in Nepal. Moreover, Nepal's universities have to promote exchange programs with many universities of Japan that could contribute to the development of human resources in Nepal.

#### **7.2.5 Diplomatic Recommendations**

In order to make Nepal's relations with Japan, Nepal has developed effective diplomacy and promotes economic diplomacy.

### **Development/Promotion of Effective Diplomacy in Nepal**

Diplomacy for small country like Nepal is the most important tool of achieving its foreign policy goals, objectives and strategies. Nepal has to adopt appropriate diplomatic techniques and successful regulations with nations of the world adopting proper give and take policy and promoting economic

diplomacy and making it people and country friendly. The appointment of appropriate and qualified persons having the adequate Knowledge of international relations, diplomacy, political and economic, history, as diplomats become prerequisites/preconditions for this.

### **Promote Economic Diplomacy**

Nepal has to promote diplomacy in the present day world which would to some extent help economic Nepal to build a self sustaining economy. The Nepalese embassy in Tokyo can be an effective instrument in promoting economic diplomacy including attracting, the Japanese (general) tourists and pilgrimage tourists and Buddhists in visiting Japan.

### **Promotion of Track 2 and Track 3 Diplomacy**

Besides government to government formal relations, informal relations among people, civil societies, organizations and non-political organizations have also to be building to preserve the beauty/attractions of the bilateral relations. Their interactions have to be promoted. These promotions (of people to people relation) thus, have to be promoted in the days to come to make the bilateral relations more dynamic.

## APPENDIX - 1

### Text of the Letter from Ekai Kawaguchi to Prime Minister of Nepal

Peace and Glory  
Bodha 22 Oct. 1905

To  
His Highness the Maharajah the ruler of the Holy Land of Nepal

Sire

I beg your pardon to submit some suggestions to Your Highness in consequence of our last conversation, which I had the honour to enjoy in your company.

Your Highness knows very well that I have been acquainted with your nation since these last seven years and have found **so many similarities in them with the Japanese**, (as pointed out many times by me already,) that naturally I could desire nothing more in my heart than that this nation shall have the same union and enlightenment that has raised my country to this greatness, more-over it is meet for us – that the land in which Budha had sprung – the land that sent us light and moderation should receive back from us science and wisdom so that it may retain its positive glory and be worthy of us.

I am mover very deeply with the lucky chance that has enabled me to offer my heart felt wish my desire to Your Highness who has the sole power in the land and desires earnestly to keep up with the times. In this laudable intention I see Sire much you have done but more yet remains. No doubt in this out of the way corner unaided, unadvised without a model to copy from, to shape one's destiny in among un-sympathetic if not hostile nation is hard but your determination to carry on, to move on, in spite of all obstacles fighting manfully in noble indeed. O Maharajah it gives me a thrill of pleasure to imagine how the posterity will think about you the father of life and liberty – you who braved all storms for them – you who brought orders where none was before – you who taught them the meaning of home, their native-land, their king and their Gods. Your memory in short will be engraved on their heart and a monument there-in will be raised to it shedding light and glory not less further and

wider than that given out by the proposed Tsushima light-house, admired and revered alike by outsiders that come across its way. Such, O Sire, such potentialities are in your hands. To use it and be a name and a blessing to your people should be your motto. Yes, short may be our lives but much could be done in the shortest time; and you remember well that year before last the millennium of Alfred (King of England) was celebrated and all the present day improvements were ascribed to him that day who laid the foundation.

Regarding the similarities of the two nations I can not say much on this point, yet I can't help giving vent to my impression of the land and people. Its glories are not only picturesque sceneries and nice equable climate but it has a history and a tradition. The appearance, the intelligence, the industry, the obedience and bravery of the people bears startling resemblance to the Japanese. What is more I acknowledge they have the strong will which is essentially requisite for all the improvements. Over and above this I notice that they simply follow and worship Your Highness with a loyalty and devotion worthy of our own people. Things being so, it makes me hopeful of its future and we are anxious to see that the Asiatics are up to the Europeans in civilization and other kindred matters to attain which we are willing to undergo any amount of trouble for them. The matter standing thus it will explain to Your Highness that why I am interesting myself so much in your affair. We want to see the day when the Asiatic will be combined and act as a body in concert and be a guarantee to the independence of Asia. We should like to see this great Pan-Asiatic feeling fostered everywhere. To this object I beg to offer the briefest outline of the methods for the national improvement and progress.

First and foremost is the education that develops the love of country and gives a turn to the public mind, second it is the application of the people educated in general knowledge in your works. The education must be worked under the national principles with a view of the development of civilization, enriching of the country and promoting the happiness of the people. You know well that in the college the men are trained and a perfect engineer or a military officer or a diplomat is turned out from it.

So once you perfect these, you will secure all at one sweep. You remember what Wellington said of Waterloo – that it was won at Eton (college).

But there is education and education. The Indians are being educated for the last two-centuries and you know the quality of stuff turned out and with the perfect system what wonders we have done in less than half a century. You shall have to give education in your own language under experienced teachers whom if you would like I could secure from my country and I can assure you that my countrymen would be simply too glad to serve you in any capacity such as the instructors of medical and military sciences, engineering, agriculture, laws and political economy. If you do not like this idea you could send a number of picked men to Japan to finish off their education. Of course they must have English for their second language and you could fix certain grades with post carrying salaries at different rate so that the men with mother tongue alone or with two languages or with the foreign finishing off be suitably recruited. This is a slow but certainly a cautious method and I could understand your positions.

The organ of the national improvement that is the schools you should try to establish in your country at least 500 within 5 years, with a great college located centrally with workshops and classes for technical arts attached to it. The schools shall give the people the general knowledge training them for the college where Engineering, Agriculture, Botany and other Sciences could be taught and artisans and other classes trained in technical arts. All these if given in your own tongue will be easy enough. If knowledge be disseminated this way you will very soon reap a rich harvest. Even now however much you might have tried for the improvement of a department you must have been handicapped for want of proper educated persons, because in every civilized country men get proper training in the schools and they understand what they have to do before they join the service.

Second, the industry of the country should be fully developed, improved and not only receive your good will and moral support but should be helped even materially at the commencement by you. Surely, the safest place to reinvest your money is nowhere



else but in your own country. Supported thus both with moral and money it is bound to go on. You should not look for a profit, if the concern just balances itself it is well and good. It supports so much of your people and the people's money is your own. To effect this a bank should be established. I hear you have one already viz. "The Tejareth" but to have a beneficial result it should be worked with a wider scope and a greater intelligence. Great wonders could be done on this principle. Make the people take interest in trade and give them the zest and you will see revolution in your market tomorrow.

It is said that either the most bold or the most ignorant leaves the beaten track and strikes out a passage for himself. But so long your predecessors have been following the old method and maxims with what result we are well acquainted. So it will be wise too on your part not to do the same. You want to be rich and why do not you try to open up mines. I am sure you are likely to get at even precious stones. The Himalayas are famous for mines. Leaving precious stones and metals alone it is a matter of wonder that Your Highness possessing such a mountainous country with such big waterfalls and possessing such a vast number of copper and iron mines that you should not be able to export them and flood the Indian markets. To do so things should be done on grand scales. Now a days electricity could be taken any distance and no furnace is equal to electric one. So you could take your furnace where your mines are and to reduce ores to metals you require nothing more than fluxes for the matter of transport which is not a very heavy item. Even for traction you should be able to use electricity.

Again, I find that the trade in your country is standing still. It is sad to see that no attempt is made to improve it. If a trunk road be opened from the capital to the heart of the country and cart traffic at least be used, it will do a lot good to it as it is one of the greatest sources of wealth. There is so much to be done in this line. As for instance there is a tannery – you have skins. You have got all the training materials and yet you are satisfied with a nominal export duty. You are a great forest king, you should have been able to beat down all the paper and other mills in India yet you sell

out raw materials whereas if you had aimed at providing the world's market even that you could have been able to cope with. I see again forest is managed on no principles here and I found that your mountains are almost bare and treeless and no step is taken to reforest them. It pays just as well to do so and cut by rotation and sell off as the ordinary rice field. If you go on like this you will soon exhaust the natural resources and like a prodigal man you shall have to repent here after. Again you have got such nice varied climates and why should you be behind Afghanistan to export fruits. In connection with this, you should establish a great Botanical Garden. It will do after reaching benefit. It is no good for me to remain long on one subject. There is cotton, cardamom, tea, flax and other fibres. There is cinchona, rubber, camphor, teak and other valuable timbers. All should pay very well. Again there is horse and mule-breeding and dairy keeping etc. you are wise and you understand what I mean. You cannot develop all these yourself. You must encourage your people and help them on. Even in civilized country the paid servant gets a bonus or a commission to make them take more interest in their duty. You cannot expect your people work all for the Government. The country's strength lies in people's wealth. Look at all the civilized countries and you will find the people very rich forming the backstay of the Government. This and nothing but this is the secret of the development of trade. I can assure you if you will enquire you will find from other sources also that it is so.

There is much to say on this head but the space forbids me. However, I will just glance over them. There are mica-works, marble quarries, sulphur and saltpeter refineries, lime, porcelain and stone works, lead, copper and iron mines, saw, cotton, flour, jute, oil, paper, rice, wool and silk mills. Again there is tea, cardamom estate and sugar factories potteries and distilleries. All these industries are paying all over the world and why it should not do the same up here. If you could only persuade the people to take interest in these matters and invest their money in them, they are sure to succeed. You shall have to give all sorts of concessions to them, because even in civilized countries the Governments are guided by the voices of chambers of commerce and Planter's Association. In building up I believe you shall have to give

them long leases say 5.10.20 even 50 years, then the company will be firmly established and success guaranteed. You should try to get money invested within the country, otherwise it will cause tightness in the market. Beside it will compel the nobles to take more interest in their country.

Why do not you make the nobles take an interest in trade and farming. These are paying professions. Here I notice people look only for the Government appointments as in India. I wonder how long you could provide them. If you will give them patches of land say 200 acres each and teach them the way of farming; I think once they see that it pays and is well-worth doing, they will go over to that profession. This will relieve the tension on your coffers and at the same time divert the attention of the most dangerous section of the state to another source. I have to say something to you on this point. You are the de facto ruler – the real king. Why should your succession go to brothers – thus leaving the well-tried method. The country suffers for it. The old method is a wise one – the son being the successor of the entailed property he inherits all, so he starts with full coffers and his aim will be at the improvement of the country. If the brother comes in he with his hungry heart will be spending his time simply in collecting and providing for his family as he is no better than a bird of passage and the country is ruined for the fleeing and want of interest taken in it. You should make only the ruler's eldest son to succeed otherwise the evil will not be eradicated. I am sure as soon as the country gets a thoughtful ruler or a wrong respite of peace or the natural process of weeding is stopped, the ruler will be confronted with this problem and will be compelled to adopt this. Those who are likely to suffer from this could very well be compensated.

Once you could establish the succession on proper footing and peace secured for a term of years, the country develops itself, as it is the natural outcome. For once a disturbance occurs the abler hands that have gradually worked up to the heads are swept off and new party in its ignorance and party feelings goes on pulling down what the other party had built up in course of time causing thus a great national loss. It is all very well of talking that party strife should be merged into national principles and

things should be guided always according to it. But when one's life is in jeopardy little he can think of his country and duty. To attain this object your mind should first of all be directed. In doing this you will be doing your duty to the country. The country cares nothing so long its ruler is its countryman who has a deep abiding interest in it. I believe the cause of disturbance could be traced to place intrigues in all cases which I am firmly of the opinion is due to your "chakary" system. Familiarity breeds contempt and to keep such a lot of persons nearly one's own equal standing and otherwise about him, who are zealous of his influence is to goad them to commit thing which in their sober moments they will hardly entertain of. Being always in contact with you, they could gauge your feelings very well and so they are emboldened. Had they been deprived of your company your intentions and of the exciting order of things it will strike terror in their hearts keeping them always in awe which will act as a tonic on them. They may attend the morning salaams and your court on business alone. This will leave ample time at your hands which you could very well utilize by spending it in going through official papers. The abolition of "chakary system" will tend the people to direct their attention to business, as they can not hang about you or dog your footsteps wasting thus their time. I notice the ruling heads have always come to grief through their kinsmen and so why I want you to take particular care of this section. With your spy system you should have full knowledge of their movements and yours they should not get even a scent of. I notice again they have always used army as the instrument to secure their object and it strikes me very much that why you do not try to keep your army distributed all over the country as a check or precaution against attempts on your person. Without the army your opponent will not be able to take the reins of the government in his hands, so his attempt on your person will be a senseless one. This will at the same time conceal the nature composition and number of your troops and will reduce also the tension on the local market. It will be also a great check on your army commanders once the stations, they are in connected by the telegraph with the headquarter you have them in the palm of your hand, any attempt against you being crushed in no time. This "chakary" – the relic of feudalism is cause of the failure of official business. Isolation – the very

essence of officialism – to foster which all the civilized Governments are doing their utmost are honored in breach in this. So no wonder you find yourself now at sixes and sevens, and you have to thank the system for it.

Try to make one language in your whole country and then you will get at the root of the strength. It seems simple enough but it requires thoughtful consideration for ages as old ideas and prejudices are hard to kill. Again your neighbours might not like to see you put your house in order and they might have something to say on it and might even try to interfere with it, but if you will go on with your mind fully made up with patience and perseverance persuading her in the meantime she is gaining by her doing so you may in time attain the object of your heart.

Now in the last but not the least important is the army. If you will think over this problem carefully you will wonder why you have kept the present number of the army. It is too large for the resource of the state and it cripples its development and as a fighting machine its value is nil – however much you may rely on your old tradition and valour. In these days of modern arms and their scientific application you will be seriously handicapped. To seek an instance you have not to go far. The Manchurian war shows clearly what I mean. The Russians were equally armed and even then the result was so disastrous to them. If you shall have to fight against a power, why, you shall not be able to come within your shooting range even you will be pounded up at a distance of miles away and scattered before you could ever come in contact with them. This is not the way for a petty state. You should have reserves well-trained that could be called out in times of war arranged in such a way that you could draw more than a hundred thousand easily. These if they get a proper training will up their work and will be cheaper to the state. Beside this system fosters the national spirit and you may with great advantage reduce the number of costly regular troops. In doing this your neighbour might think that you are politically not ambitious and may not be so suspicious and vigilant. (However I advise you not to give up the old well-tried system for the new one until you are quite sure of the old and so know where we are, but new may land us in inextricable difficulty which might even prove fatal.) In the

meantime you could establish a great arsenal in the interior of the country where your neighbour may not be able to find out what you are doing. With electricity and Japanese engineers (if you are afraid of the friction with your neighbour you may bring them through China with your mission) you may do wonders. A factory just to turn out rifles and guns with enough cordite ammunition for it should be ample for your present need. My countrymen will do for you anything. Once they have put on Nepalese dress and picked up Nepalese language it is hard to find out who they are so closely they resemble your people. Your men are clever imitators so I think a small number of staff will be sufficient. I think the whole cost of the scheme will not be much. I think you can not do this without outside help, as for the army instructors, these could be trained in Japan. Your men after they complete their college education may be sent to Japan where they could learn the art thoroughly. This is a slow method but a wise one. I could understand your peculiar position and the careful and cautious way, you are managing things hold out a lot of hope to me.

On the score of domestic economy I find your people not thrifty. They spend more than their income. The greatest method of enriching one's self is to practice economy which is the strength of the country. In this also if you will lead the way the people will follow you. This saves so much going into the pocket of other nations of import. Beside your people do not know the use of money. All the rich men seem to be satisfied with 3 per cent interest for their money where as with shares in their own country, they could have secured a larger dividend and the development of their country at the same time. For this the people are not to be blamed. It is the duty of the Government to win their confidence and keep up their credit. You must use gentle means and persuasion to attain your ends. I need not point out to Your Highness that there are different modes of governing – the Czar thinks unless he rules the way he does harm will befall him and yet there is my Mikado whose renunciation is well-known and who none-the-less is loved and respected by us as the veritable “Little Father”. So after all the iron may hammer and batter but it is the will that gives shape to the things.

I have something to say to Your Highness on the division of labour. I could very well imagine owing to the party – reasons and chakary system all the departments being filled up with worthless men. Why should they undergo hard studies for which they are likely to get while rollicking about. This is of course natural. But in the long run you will find that you will not be able to secure the services of able persons unless you could offer guaranteed posts. To aggravate this evil there is only one head department through which all the papers must pass. To try to make improvements with this is to wage war with the Hydra-headed monster. You may strike off his head but it grows again there so better strike at the root and give up lopping branches. You had better follow the European methods having so many cabinet ministers to take charge of the several departments. This will facilitate business and bring responsibility on everybody's shoulder. The idle big man will be bound to work for his pay and the petty official who may be hard working but harder persecuted will be protected. Henceforward he shall have to please one man – his department chief behind whom he could shelter himself.

To sum up

1<sup>st</sup>, you have to establish your country on a firm footing.

2<sup>nd</sup>, The continuity of the succession to the reins of the Government should be assured.

3<sup>rd</sup>, The check on the army and on your subjects should be placed.

4<sup>th</sup>, Isolation of officers and officials from the ruling head and the ruled should be attained.

5<sup>th</sup>, Education and training of the people.

6<sup>th</sup>, Means to be adopted for fostering the national spirit and the love of country.

7<sup>th</sup>, Development of the trade and industries

8<sup>th</sup>, Distribution of labour and bringing home of the responsibility of duty to your men.

9<sup>th</sup>, Construction of arsenals.

10<sup>th</sup>, Opening up of the country with the roads and telegraphs.

11<sup>th</sup>, Army reorganization.

12<sup>th</sup>, Utilization of time.

The last item might look superfluous but Sire, I noticed the other day when I presented myself at your salaams that you were hearing petty cases personally. This may appear very good and it is really very good and it is really very kind of Your Highness and may be according to shastras and of the ancient usage but it looks very strange to me. If you will sacrifice your valuable time in this way, how could you get time to go deeply in the state matters. You may do good to a petty individual in listening to his case but you could do in the same time good to the whole community. Thus you will be doing injustice to your nation. Such things could be easily relegated to another person say a Chief Justice.

For the present I must rest satisfied with what I have written. I am afraid, I have already taken a good deal of your valuable time. I beg to be pardoned for aught I might have happened to put down amiss. I have given you my impressions straight from my heart. My observation may be faulty as I am yet a stranger. However I hope Your Highness will take it for good as I am a well-wisher of Your Highness and of the land you rule.

Banzai, Your Highness.

Banzai, the noble idea of Your Highness.

Banzai, the Happy Nation in the holy Himalayas.

Banzai, the similarities between the Japanese and the Nepalese.

Banzai, Peace and Glory of Japan, Nepal and Asia.

I am  
Your Highness  
Most obedient servant  
The Japanese priest  
Ekai Kawaguchi

**Source:** Sharma, 2010, pp. 225-234.



## APPENDIX - 2

### Donor-wise Commitment Signed with Ministry of Finance in FY 2012-13

| Bilateral (A)            | Total Amount (In NRs. millions) |                 |                  | Total Amount (in USD millions) |               |                |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
|                          | Grant                           | Loan            | Total            | Grant                          | Loan          | Total          |
| Australia                | -                               | -               | 0.00             | 0.00                           | 0.00          | 0.00           |
| Canada                   | -                               | -               | 0.00             | 0.00                           | 0.00          | 0.00           |
| China                    | 3006.00                         | -               | 3006.00          | 31.36                          | 0.00          | 30.36          |
| Denmark                  | 3130.00                         | -               | 3130.00          | 31.62                          | 0.00          | 31.62          |
| Finland                  | -                               | -               | 0.00             | 0.00                           | 0.00          | 0.00           |
| France                   | -                               | -               | 0.00             | 0.00                           | 0.00          | 0.00           |
| Germany                  | 2750.00                         | -               | 2750.00          | 17.68                          | 0.00          | 17.68          |
| India                    | -                               | -               | 0.00             | 0.00                           | 0.00          | 0.00           |
| Japan                    | 907.00                          | 13653.00        | 14560.00         | 9.16                           | 137.91        | 147.07         |
| Switzerland              | -                               | -               | 0.00             | 0.00                           | 0.00          | 0.00           |
| Norway                   | 2340.00                         | -               | 2340.00          | 23.64                          | 0.00          | 23.64          |
| Sand fund                | -                               | -               | 0.00             | 0.00                           | 0.00          | 0.00           |
| Republic of Korea        | 403.00                          | -               | 403.00           | 4.07                           | 0.00          | 4.07           |
| Switzerland              | 2143.88                         | -               | 2143.88          | 21.66                          | 0.00          | 21.66          |
| UK                       | 9630                            | 9630            | 9630             | 97.22                          | 4.7           | 4.7            |
| US                       | -                               | -               | 0.00             | 0.00                           | 0.00          | 0.00           |
| Kuwait                   | -                               | 1557.00         | 1557.00          | 0.00                           | 15.73         | 15.73          |
| <b>Total (A)</b>         | <b>23309.88</b>                 | <b>15210.00</b> | <b>38519.88</b>  | <b>235.45</b>                  | <b>153.64</b> | <b>389.09</b>  |
| Bilateral (A)            | Total Amount (In NRs. millions) |                 |                  | Total Amount (in USD millions) |               |                |
|                          | Grant                           | Loan            | Total            | Grant                          | Loan          | Total          |
| ADB                      | 6583.00                         | 20521.00        | 27104.00         | 66.49                          | 207.28        | 273.78         |
| European Investment Bank | -                               | 6410.00         | 6410.00          | 0.00                           | 64.75         | 64.75          |
| EU                       | 971.50                          | -               | 971.50           | 9.81                           | 0.00          | 8.81           |
| FAO                      | -                               | -               | 0.00             | 0.00                           | 0.00          | 0.00           |
| GAVI                     | -                               | -               | 0.00             | 0.00                           | 0.00          | 0.00           |
| IEAD                     | 1712.00                         | 1712.00         | 3424.00          | 17.29                          | 17.29         | 34.59          |
| IFC                      | -                               | -               | 0.00             | 0.00                           | 0.00          | 0.00           |
| ICO                      | -                               | -               | 0.00             | 0.00                           | 0.00          | 0.00           |
| OPEC Fund                | -                               | -               | 0.00             | 0.00                           | 0.00          | 0.00           |
| UNDP                     | -                               | -               | 0.00             | 0.00                           | 0.00          | 0.00           |
| UNFPA                    | -                               | -               | 0.00             | 0.00                           | 0.00          | 0.00           |
| UNICEF                   | -                               | -               | 0.00             | 0.00                           | 0.00          | 0.00           |
| World Bank               | 21324.60                        | 17402.80        | 38727.40         | 215.40                         | 175.79        | 391.19         |
| CIF                      | -                               | -               | 0.00             | 0.00                           | 0.00          | 0.00           |
| <b>Sub Total (B)</b>     | <b>30591.10</b>                 | <b>46045.80</b> | <b>76636.90</b>  | <b>309.00</b>                  | <b>465.11</b> | <b>774.11</b>  |
| <b>Total (A+B)</b>       | <b>53900.98</b>                 | <b>61255.80</b> | <b>115156.78</b> | <b>544.45</b>                  | <b>618.75</b> | <b>1163.20</b> |

**Source:** Aid Management Platform, 29 February 2014, and DCR FY 2010-11, DCR FY 2011-12, 20 February 2013, Quoted from GoN, MoF, IECCD, 2014, p. 7.

### APPENDIX - 3

#### Donor-wise Comparative Disbursement for FY 2010-11 to 2012-13

| SN  | Donor Group             | Actual<br>Disbursements<br>FY 2010-11<br>(US\$) | Actual<br>Disbursements<br>(FY 2011-12<br>(US\$) | Actual<br>Disbursements<br>FY 2012-13<br>(US\$) |
|-----|-------------------------|---|--|---|
| 1.  | World Bank Group        | 256,113,102                                     | 269,605,647                                      | 231,404,440                                     |
| 2.  | Asian Development Bank  | 184,419,986                                     | 193,400,498                                      | 101,204,607                                     |
| 3.  | United Kingdom          | 92,612,422                                      | 84,240,019                                       | 89,989,120                                      |
| 4.  | United Nations          | 112,543,336                                     | 108,169,072                                      | 68,661,608                                      |
| 5.  | USAID                   | 48,450,255                                      | 22,487,717                                       | 87,196,696                                      |
| 6.  | Japan                   | 58,691,311                                      | 44,090,184                                       | 65,759,647                                      |
| 7.  | Switzerland             | 27,632,405                                      | 50,620,749                                       | 63,813,269                                      |
| 8.  | China                   | 18,843,988                                      | 28,344,923                                       | 34,120,033                                      |
| 9.  | Norway                  | 32,818,161                                      | 41,686,343                                       | 32,823,348                                      |
| 10. | Denmark                 | 17,832,150                                      | 29,099,959                                       | 30,549,044                                      |
| 11. | GFATM                   | 18,973,027                                      | 15,094,614                                       | 28,241,077                                      |
| 12. | European Union          | 42,384,482                                      | 43,974,932                                       | 28,066,696                                      |
| 13. | Germany                 | 27,300,849                                      | 38,830,532                                       | 23,743,866                                      |
| 14. | Australia               | 22,067,850                                      | 22,729,014                                       | 16,064,901                                      |
| 15. | Korea                   | 22,203,697                                      | 4,715,410  | 14,247,876                                      |
| 16. | OFID                    | 5,280,000                                       | -  | 13,214,303                                      |
| 17. | Finland                 | 22,153,680                                      | 13,242,353                                       | 6,470,909                                       |
| 18. | Netherlands             | 2,503,206                                       | 858,916  | 1,015,515                                       |
| 19. | Saudi Fund              | 1,141,351                                       | -  | 798,696   |
| 20. | GAVI                    | 7,520,367                                       | -  | 798,529   |
| 21. | Canada                  | 4,552,367                                       | 546,535  | -   |
| 22. | Nordic Development Fund | 2,943,806                                       | -  | -   |
| 23. | Others                  | -   | 142,555  | -   |
|     | <b>Total:</b>           | <b>1,979,710,554</b>                            | <b>1,045,297,273</b>                             | <b>959,951,292</b>                              |

**Source:** Aid Management Platform, 29 February 2014, and DCR FY 2010-11, DCR FY 2011-12, 20 February 2013, , Quoted from GoN, MoF, IECCD, 2014, p. 7.

## APPENDIX 4

### Nepal's Import from Japan

| HSC | Description of Products  | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 |
|-----|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1   | Live poultry weighing not more than 185g   | -       | -       | 11      | -       | -       |
| 3   | Frozen fish, salmonidae  | -       | 31      | -       | -       | -       |
| 4   | Cheese   | -       | -       | 96      | 14      | -       |
| 6   | Feather of a kind used for stuffing: down, Animal products not elsewhere specified or included: dead animals | 14      | -       | 114     | -       | -       |
| 8   | Pistachios, Betelnuts, Grapes, dried, fresh Apples   | 3079-   | -       | -       | -       | -       |
| 9   | Green tea not fermented in immediate packing of a content not exceeding 3kg, Cloves                          | 16      | -       | 1771    | 206     | 80      |
| 10  | Semi milled or wholly milled rice, whether or not polished or glazed   | 96447   | 3201    | 484     | 443519  | 188157  |
| 11  | Cereal Flours  | 1664    | 673     | 146     | -       | -       |
| 12  | Oils seeds and oleaginous fruits; seeds and fruits   | 35017   | 54648   | 59529   | 52957   | 51086   |

|    |   |      |      |     |      |      |
|----|---|------|------|-----|------|------|
| 16 | Sardines, sardinella and brisling or sprats   | 6    | 8    | -   | 27   | -    |
| 17 | Invert sugar, Sugar confectionery not containing cocoa  | -    | -    | 104 | 70   | -    |
| 18 | Cocoa and cocoa preparations  | 47   | -    | -   | -    | -    |
| 19 | Preparation of cereals, flour, starch or milk pastry  | 502  | 271  | 594 | 212  | 84   |
| 20 | Preparation of vegetables, fruits, nuts or other  | -    | 259  | -   | 636  | -    |
| 21 | Miscellaneous edible preparations   | 2490 | 675  | 796 | 1239 | 1821 |
| 22 | Wine of fresh grapes in containers holding more than 2L, sparkling wine, Spirituous beverages |      |      |     |      |      |
| 23 | Animal food   | -    | -    | -   | -    | -    |
| 24 | Pipe tobacco  | -    | -    | -   | -    | -    |
| 25 | Clays decolorizing earths and fuller's earth  | 1836 | 1565 | -   | -    | -    |
| 26 | Copper ores and concentrates  | -    | -    | -   | 14   | 26   |

|    |  |        |        |        |        |        |
|----|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 27 | Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their  | 1886   | 376    | 186    | 1903   | 6067   |
| 28 | Inorganic chemicals  | 12983  | 14542  | 12553  | 22211  | 19723  |
| 29 | Organic chemicals  | 38824  | 32543  | 1462   | 14364  | 50431  |
| 30 | Pharmaceutical products  | 545    | 8106   | 6458   | 5886   | 15088  |
| 31 | Fertilizers  | -      | -      | 25069  | 106    | -      |
| 32 | Tanning or dyeing extracts, dyes, pigment and other colouring matter, paints and varnishes, inks | 5325   | 23785  | 6890   | 1227   | 12159  |
| 33 | Essential oils and resinoids, perfumery cosmetic   | 478    | 3219   | 15446  | 6409   | 734    |
| 34 | Washing preparations and clearing preparation  | 171    | 4329   | 3453   | 8356   | 226    |
| 35 | Adhesives based on rubber or plastics  | -      | 257    | 212    | 13805  | 16935  |
| 37 | Photographic or cinematographic goods  | 198593 | 226804 | 222015 | 194895 | 315744 |
| 38 | Miscellaneous chemical products  | 23812  | 25354  | *26957 | 17219  | 34752  |
| 39 | Plastic and articles thereof   | 55599  | 60642  | 63697  | 37545  | 33679  |
| 40 | Rubber and articles thereof  | 56103  | 67069  | 47341  | 44521  | 68448  |

|    |  |       |       |       |       |       |
|----|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 41 | Leather further prepared after tanning or crusting of swine                    | -     | -     | -     | -     | -     |
| 42 | Hand bags  | 302   | 110   | 429   | 7%2   | 590   |
| 44 | Plywood consisting solely of sheets of woods, coniferous woods                 | 13    | 357   | -     | -     | 4770  |
| 47 | Pulps of fibres derived from recovered, semi                                   | -     | 11110 | -     |       | -     |
| 48 | Paper and paper boards and articles of paper boards and paper boards           | 2641  | 12163 | 23506 | 15655 | 12710 |
| 49 | Printed books, newspaper, pictures and other products of the printing industry | 3793  | 44808 | 2405  | 3695  | 47826 |
| 51 | Woven fabric containing 85% or more by weight of                               | 21    | -     | 244   | 105   | 317   |
| 52 | Woven fabrics of cotton, unbleached, cotton yarn                               | 26064 | 16675 | 3851  | 6685  | 23285 |
| 54 | Man made filaments   | 88057 | 45988 | 31793 | 9796  | 50507 |
| 55 | Man made staple fibers   | 3405  | 2400  | 5103  | 4278  | 5064  |
| 56 | Wadding, felt and nonwovens; special yarns;                                    | 52    | 2743  | -     | -     | 44    |

|    |  |       |       |       |       |        |
|----|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| 57 | Carpets and other textile floor coverings  | 6094  | 27653 | -     | -     | -      |
| 58 | Special woven fabrics tufted textiles  | 3282  | 965   | 79    | 169   | 1768   |
| 59 | Impregnated, coated, covered and laminated textile fabric, textile fabrics suitable for industrial | 55197 | 48501 | 51049 | 87958 | 129393 |
| 60 | Knitted or crocheted fabric  | 11506 | 3487  | 608   | 732   | 12380  |
| 61 | Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted                                 | 13    | 77    | 21    | 480   | 183    |
| 62 | Articles of apparel and clothing accessories not   | 15976 | 20671 | 23511 | 15324 | 19287  |
| 63 | Other made of textiles articles, worn clothing and articles  | 50752 | 6565  | 2419  | 924   | 2098   |
| 64 | Footwear with outer sole of rubber or plastics   | 1633  | 1080  | 701   | 786   | 341    |
| 65 | Safety headgear  | -     | 64    | 7     | 64    | 58     |
| 66 | Umbrellas  | -     | -     | 12    | -     | -      |
| 67 | Human hair, dressed, thined, bleached or   | -     | -     | 48    | -     | -      |
| 68 | Slag wool  | 31    | 103   | 8     | -     | -      |

|    |   |         |         |         |         |         |
|----|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 69 | Ceramic products  | 574     | -       | 1262    | 59      | 883     |
| 70 | Glass and glassware   | 5468    | 10213   | 15636   | 31238   | 56890   |
| 71 | Silver jewellery and imitation jewellery                          | 68      | 78      | 40      | -       | 68      |
| 72 | Iron and steel  | 147936  | 763975  | 6705560 | 1261354 | 1290280 |
| 73 | Articles of iron and steel  | 15167   | 7115    | 10182   | 6308    | 91162   |
| 74 | Refined copper wire   | 339     | 476     | -       | -       | 19      |
| 76 | Stranded wire of aluminum, aluminum scrap                         | 129     | 6849    | 271     | 2255    | 993     |
| 79 | Zinc and articles thereof   | 9437    | 10599   | 22153   | -       | 19797   |
| 82 | Tools, implements, cutlery, spoons and forks of base              | 3182    | 4577    | 10045   | 2479    | 1504    |
| 83 | Miscellaneous articles of base metal                              | 5096    | 5       | 5442    | 4168    | 679     |
| 84 | Machinery and mechanical appliance electrical equipment and parts | 1925646 | 1846761 | 775913  | 499973  | 501779  |
| 85 | Electrical machinery sound recorder television                    | 1595698 | 873370  | 305427  | 213213  | 207727  |
| 87 | Motor vehicles and Parts, accessories there of                    | 1141185 | 1422366 | 1005187 | 725105  | 562886  |



|    |  |                |                |                |                |                |
|----|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 88 | Parts of aero plane and helicopter           | -              | 1678           | 215            | 568            | 1607           |
| 89 | Lifeboats                                    | -              | 2121           | -              | -              | 171            |
| 90 | Optical, photographic, measuring medical or  | 418740         | 459754         | 401226         | 608001         | 655904         |
| 91 | Clocks and watches and parts thereof         | 7117           | 51042          | 55164          | 74786          | 97538          |
| 92 | Clocks and watches and parts thereof         | 7117           | 51042          | 55164          | 74786          | 97538          |
| 93 | parts of revolvers or pistol                 | 120            | -              | -              | -              | 14260          |
| 94 | Furniture's, bedding, mattresses             | 2119           | 213            | 1069           | 1241           | 1654           |
| 95 | Toys, games and sports requisites, parts and | 911            | 2605           | 6195           | 3756           | 3946           |
| 96 | Miscellaneous manufactured articles          | 23766          | 28745          | 29152          | 27383          | 21457          |
| 97 | Paintings, drawings and pastels              | -              | -              | -              | -              | 4100           |
| -- | Others                                       | 4              | 7              | 14             | 7              | 94             |
|    | <b>Total:</b>                                | <b>6111189</b> | <b>6267573</b> | <b>3957915</b> | <b>4479354</b> | <b>4663186</b> |

**Source:** Compiled by Research and Information Division of FNCCI from Trade and Export Promotion Centre.

## APPENDIX - 5

### Nepal's Export to Japan

| HSC | Description of Products   | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 |
|-----|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 4   | Natural honey   | -       | -       | 22      | 201     | -       |
| 5   | Bones and horn-cores, unworked, defatted, simply prepared, treated with acid or degelatinized, powder and waste of these products | -       | -       | -       | 217     | -       |
| 6   | Live trees and other plants, cut flowers, bulbs, roots etc.   | 6217    | 4483    | 5       | 905     | 201     |
| 7   | Cauliflowers and headed broccoli  | -       | -       | 61      | -       | 101     |
| 8   | Fruit and nuts, provisionally preserved but unsuitable in that state for immediate consumption                                    | 35      | 29      | -       | -       | -       |
| 9   | Coffee, tea, mate and spices  | 43869   | 15006   | 13829   | 15876   | 28882   |
| 10  | Buckwheat, Millet   | -       | -       | -       | -       | 100     |
| 11  | Wheat flour   | -       | 101     | -       | -       | 72      |
| 12  | Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits   | 329     | 3879    | 1768    | 4766    | 6257    |
| 13  | Lycopodium powder   | 3257    | -       | -       | -       | -       |
| 14  | Vegetables products   | 2594    | -       | -       | -       | -       |

|    |  |      |      |       |       |       |
|----|--|------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 15 | Beeswax, other insect waxes and spermaceti, whether or not refined or coloured | -    | -    | 58    | -     | -     |
| 17 | 99% or more lactose expressed as anhydrous lactose, invert sugar               | -    | -    | -     | -     | 81    |
| 19 | Uncooked pasta, not stuffed or otherwise prepared                              | 244  | 989  | 1839  | 368   | 566   |
| 20 | Orange juice   | -    | -    | 20    | -     | 156   |
| 21 | Food preparations  | -    | 364  | 42    | 274   | 417   |
| 22 | Beverages, spirit and vinegar  | 1401 | 7851 | 10853 | 18828 | 22397 |
| 23 | Dog or cat food  | -    | -    | -     | -     | 210   |
| 25 | Salt, sulphur, earths and stone plastering materials, lime and cement          | 252  | 179  | 28    | 243   | 352   |
| 27 | Mineral was  | 143  | -    | -     | 1599  | 7846  |
| 30 | Homeopathic medicaments  | -    | 11   | 900   | -     | 116   |
| 31 | Fertilizer, urea   | 193  | -    | -     | -     | -     |
| 32 | Printing ink   | -    | -    | 133   | -     | -     |
| 33 | Essential oils and resinoids perfumery cosmetic and toilet preparations        | 153  | 1005 | 790   | 3589  | 627   |
| 34 | Soaps  | 1549 | 498  | 593   | 1993  | 921   |

|    |  |       |       |       |       |        |
|----|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| 37 | Photographic film in rolls for x-ray, sensitised, unexposed of material other than paper   | -     | -     | -     | -     | -      |
| 38 | Diagnostic or laboratory reagents  | -     | -     | -     | -     | -      |
| 39 | Bangles, Tika, beads of plastic  | 23    | -     | -     | -     | -      |
| 41 | Raw hide and skins and leather   | 632   | 108   | 361   | 9008  | -      |
| 42 | Articles of leather, saddler and harness   | 4512  | 2695  | 8743  | 16510 | 13695  |
| 44 | Wood and articles of woods, wood charcoal  | 4386  | 7956  | 16254 | 23149 | 1327   |
| 47 | Pulp of wood or other fibrous cellulosic materials   | 3421  | 95503 | 88507 | 58829 | 176249 |
| 48 | Paper and paper boards and articles of paper and paper board                               | 13815 | 11707 | 8771  | 14823 | 23761  |
| 49 | Printed books, newspaper, pictures and other products, manuscripts, type scripts and plans | 1503  | 2469  | 2407  | 4778  | 8294   |
| 50 | Silk waste (including cocoons unsuitable for reeling, yarn waste and garnetted stock       | -     | -     | -     | -     | 171    |

|    |  |        |        |        |        |        |
|----|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 51 | Combed wools in fragments, carded wool   | -      | -      | 184    | -      | -      |
| 52 | Plain weave; of different coloured yarn  | -      | 187    | -      | -      | -      |
| 53 | Hemp fabrics, woven fabrics of vegetable textile, fibre, paper yarn                        | 1368   | 2715   | 3587   | 2715   | 15412  |
| 56 | Needleloom felt and stitch bonded fibre fabrics, felt                                      | 9507   | 41786  | 40809  | 48312  | 63065  |
| 57 | Carpets and other textile floor coverings  | 19633  | 13192  | 5085   | 15677  | 14254  |
| 59 | Textile fabrics otherwise impregnated, coated  | -      | -      | 28     | -      | -      |
| 60 | Looped pile fabrics, of man made fibres  | -      | -      | -      | 188    | -      |
| 61 | Articles of apparels and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted                        | 12237  | 19435  | 37487  | 63709  | 82174  |
| 62 | Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, not knitted or crocheted, including pashmina | 201406 | 146480 | 222799 | 236718 | 251801 |
| 63 | Other made up textile articles, sets, worn   | 101151 | 78469  | 77703  | 88484  | 64584  |
| 64 | Footwears  | -      | -      | 266    | -      | -      |

|    |   |       |       |       |       |        |
|----|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| 65 | Head gear and parts thereof   | 53146 | 34565 | 41806 | 73392 | 115712 |
| 66 | Umbrellas having a telescopic shaft   | -     | -     | -     | -     | -      |
| 67 | Artificial flower, foliage and fruits   | -     | 29    | 99    | -     | 95     |
| 68 | Setts, curbstones and flagstones, of natural stone (except slate)                                       | 791   | -     | -     | 664   | 9      |
| 69 | Ceramic articles  | 414   | 378   | 801   | 356   | 665    |
| 70 | Glass beads and bangles, imitation pearls, imitation precious and semi precious stones                  | 2010  | 461   | 299   | 506   | 906    |
| 71 | Articles of Silver jewellery; imitation jewellery   | 30357 | 20392 | 26625 | 28217 | 22450  |
| 73 | Table, kitchen or other household articles and parts of iron (other than cast iron) or steel, enamelled | 29    | -     | 135   | 107   | -      |
| 74 | Copper Articles   | 610   | 1497  | 204   | 602   | -      |
| 76 | Rectangular (including square) of Aluminium, alloys   | -     | -     | 10    | -     | 49     |
| 82 | Knives for kitchen appliances   | -     | -     | 39    | -     | 44     |
| 83 | Statuettes of base metals   | 2936  | 832   | 6693  | 1526  | 2763   |

|    |  |       |       |       |        |       |
|----|--|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| 84 | Moving, grading, levelling, scraping machinery, not self-propelled                                   | 12833 | 12    | 9     | -      | -     |
| 85 | Electrical goods (transformer, cassette)   | -     | 2680  | 2453  | 1310   | -     |
| 87 | Motorcycle with reciprocating internal combustion piston engine                                      | -     | -     | -     | -      | -     |
| 89 | Boats  | -     | 2029  | -     | -      | -     |
| 90 | Dental fittings  | 10816 | 2278  | 9     | 3978   | -     |
| 92 | String and percussion musical instruments  | 1101  | 719   | 2807  | 4419   | 3907  |
| 93 | Gurkha knives (khukuri)  | 2294  | 168   | 301   | 276    | 89    |
| 94 | Furnitures bedding, mattresses, cushion covers, lamps and lighting fittings, prefabricated buildings | 705   | 17Z   | 6     | 52     | 168   |
| 95 | Garment and accessories thereof; footwear and headgears of dolls                                     | -     | -     | -     | 133    | -     |
| 96 | Miscellaneous manufactured articles, buttons   | 1636  | 666   | 630   | 2799   | 3212  |
| 97 | Works of art, collectors pieces antiques   | 18141 | 30347 | 25472 | 171312 | 28105 |
| -  | Others   | 12    | -     | 22    | 2      | 13    |

**Source:** Compiled by Research and Information Division of FNCCI from Trade and Export Promotion Centre.

## APPENDIX - 6

### Nepal's Trade with Japan

| Description                      | 2008/09       | 2009/10       | 2010/11       | 2011/12       | 2012/13       |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Country's Total Export</b>    | <b>892.3</b>  | <b>817.7</b>  | <b>883.3</b>  | <b>914.5</b>  | <b>789.6</b>  |
| Nepal's Export to Japan          | 7.4           | 7.4           | 9.0           | 9.5           | 9.8           |
| Percentage Share in Total Export | 0.8           | 0.9           | 10.0          | 1.0           | 1.2           |
| <b>Country's Total Import</b>    | <b>3785.1</b> | <b>5.39.0</b> | <b>5500.7</b> | <b>6148.6</b> | <b>6137.3</b> |
| Nepal's Import from Japan        | 79.5          | 84.1          | 54.8          | 55.3          | 47.6          |
| Percentage Share in Total Import | 2.1           | 1.7           | 1.0           | 0.9           | 0.8           |
| <b>Trade Balance</b>             | <b>-72.0</b>  | <b>-76.6</b>  | <b>-45.7</b>  | <b>-45.8</b>  | <b>-37.8</b>  |

Value in Million NRs.

| Description                                    | 2008/09         | 2009/10         | 2010/11         | 2011/12         | 2012/13         |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Country's Total Export</b>                  | <b>68596.6</b>  | <b>6.949.6</b>  | <b>64562.4</b>  | <b>74.89</b>    | <b>77350.7</b>  |
| Nepal's Export to Japan                        | 572.7           | 554.2           | 652.4           | 767.2           | 962.3           |
| Percentage Share in Total Export               | 0.8             | 0.9             | 10.0            | 1.0             | 1.2             |
| <b>Country's Total Import</b>                  | <b>291000.9</b> | <b>375605.9</b> | <b>397535.9</b> | <b>498161.0</b> | <b>601207.5</b> |
| Nepal's Import from Japan                      | 6111.2          | 6267.6          | 3957.9          | 4479.3          | 4663.2          |
| Percentage Share in Total Import               | 2.1             | 1.7             | 1.0             | 0.9             | 0.8             |
| <b>Trade Balance</b>                           | <b>-5538.5</b>  | <b>-5713.4</b>  | <b>-3305.5</b>  | <b>-3712.1</b>  | <b>-3700.9</b>  |
| 1 US\$ equivalent to NRs.<br>(Monthly average) | 86.9            | 74.5            | 72.3            | 81.0            | 98.0            |

**Source:** Compiled by Research and Information Division of FNCCI from Trade and Export Promotion Centre.



## **APPENDIX - 7**

### **History of Japan-Nepal Relations**

|      |  |
|------|--|
| 2012 | Minister for Foreign Affairs Koichiro Gomba visits Nepal   |
| 2010 | Vice-President of Nepali Congress Ram Chandra Paudel visits Japan  |
| 2009 | Minister for Finance Dr. Baburam Bhattarai Visits Japan  |
| 2009 | Vice-Minister for Defence Mr. Nobuo Kishi Visits Nepal   |
| 2008 | Senior Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Osamu Uno Visits Nepal  |
| 2008 | Japanese Parliamentarians Tadahiko Ito and Gaku Hashimoto visit Nepal for observation of Constituent Assembly Elections  |
| 2007 | Senior Vice Minister for Defense Tadahide Kimura Visits Nepal  |
| 2007 | Chihiro Atsumi, Director-General of Southeast and Southwest Asian Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan visits Nepal                                |
| 2006 | Senior Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Yasuhisa Shiozaki visits Nepal  |
| 2005 | Minister for Finance Mukunda Prasad Rana visits Japan  |
| 2005 | Home Minister Purna Bahadur Khadka visits Japan  |
| 2005 | Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs Katsuyuki Kawai visits Nepal   |
| 2005 | TRH Crown Prince Paras and Crown Princess Himani, accompanied by Minister for Foreign Affairs Ramesh Nath Pandey, visit Japan to open Nepal Pavilion in Aichi Expo '05 |
| 2004 | Member of House of Representatives and Secretary General of the Japan-Nepal Parliamentary Friendship League Tadahiro Matsushita visits Nepal                           |
| 2004 | Chief of Commission for investigation of Abuse of Authority Surya Nath Upadhaya visits Japan   |
| 2004 | Chief of Army Staff Pyarjan Thapa visits Japan   |
| 2003 | Minister for Information and Communication Ramesh Pandey visits Japan  |
| 2003 | Vice-speaker of the Lower House of Representative Chitra Lekha Yadav visits Japan  |
| 2003 | Chief judge Kedar Nath Upadhaya visits Japan   |

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 2004 | Chief of Army Staff Pyarjan Thapa visits Japan  |
| 2003 | Minister for Information and Communication Ramesh Pandey visits Japan   |
| 2003 | Vice-speaker of the Lower House of Representative Chitra Lekha Yadav visits Japan   |
| 2003 | Chief judge Kedar Nath Upadhaya visits Japan  |
| 2003 | Parliamentary Secretary for Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunication, Rokuzaemon Yoshida visits Nepal |
| 2002 | Former Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto visits Nepal  |
| 2002 | Minister of State for Science and Technology Bhakta Bahadur Balayar visits Japan  |
| 2002 | Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs Madhu Raman Acharya visits Japan   |
| 2001 | Secretary General of the Japan-Nepal Parliamentary Friendship League Wataru Kubo visits Nepal                             |
| 2001 | HRH Crown Prince Dipendra visits Japan  |
| 2000 | Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori pays an official visit to Nepal   |
| 2000 | Nepali Parliamentary delegation led by Rt. Hon. Tara Nath Ranabhat, Speaker of the House of Representatives visits Japan  |
| 1999 | HM King Birendra confers Suprasiddha Prabala Gorkha Dakshin Bahu on Former Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto of Japan      |
| 1999 | Embassy of Japan commemorates the Centennial of Japan-Nepal relations   |
| 1999 | Completion of Horticulture Development Center under Japanese Grant and Technical Cooperation                              |
| 1998 | Nepali Parliamentary delegation led by Rt. Hon. Beni Bahadur Karki, Chairman of National Assembly, visits Japan           |
| 1998 | Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala pays an official visit to Japan  |
| 1998 | Japanese Parliamentary Delegation led by Vice Speaker of the House of Representatives Kozo Watanabe visits Nepal          |
| 1997 | TIH Prince and Princess Akishino visit Nepal  |
| 1996 | HM King Birendra inaugurates the International Buddhist Research Center   |

|      |   |
|------|---|
|      | in Lumbini, constructed by Reiyukai International   |
| 1996 | Completion of the I-Baha-Bahi Temple Renovation Program in Patan  |
| 1995 | Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Madhav Kumar Nepal pay an official visit to Japan  |
| 1995 | Dr. Prakash Chandra Lohani, Minister for Foreign Affairs, visits Japan  |
| 1995 | Modernization of Tribhuvan International Airport under Japanese Grant Aid   |
| 1994 | Inaugural flight by Royal Nepal Airlines between Kathmandu and Osaka  |
| 1994 | Completion of Udayapur Cement Factory under Japanese Government Loan  |
| 1994 | Completion of Kanti Children's Hospital under Japanese Grant Aid  |
| 1991 | Japanese Parliamentary Election Observation Mission, led by Keiwa Okuda, President, Japan-Nepal Parliamentarians' Friendship League, visits Nepal |
| 1991 | Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto visits Nepal   |
| 1991 | Acting President of Nepali Congress Krishna Prasad Bhattarai visits Japan   |
| 1991 | Completion of Bus Terminal in Kathmandu under Japanese Grant Aid  |
| 1990 | HRH Crown Prince Dipendra attends the enthronement ceremony of His Majesty Emperor Akihito  |
| 1990 | Nepali-style Open Garden exhibition at Osaka Expo'90  |
| 1989 | HRH Prince Gyanendra attends the Funeral Ceremony of His late Majesty Emperor Hirohito  |
| 1989 | Expansion and Development of the Medium Wave Radio Broadcasting Network under Japanese Grant Aid  |
| 1988 | A Japan-China-Nepal Joint Expedition team successfully scales Mt. Everest   |
| 1987 | Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya, Minister for Foreign Affairs, pays an official visit to Japan   |
| 1987 | HIH Crown Prince Naruhito pays a visit to Nepal   |
| 1987 | Completion of National Tuberculosis Center under Japanese Grant Aid   |
| 1986 | TRH Prince Gyanendra and Princess Komal visit Japan to attend the opening ceremony of King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation Japan Chapter   |

|      |  |
|------|--|
| 1985 | HM King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya visit Japan to attend Tsukuba Expo'85                               |
| 1985 | HH Princess Chichibu visits Nepal  |
| 1984 | Completion of Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital, under Japanese Grant Aid and Technical Cooperation |
| 1983 | TM King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya visit Japan   |
| 1982 | Completion of Kulekhani-I Hydro Power Project under Japanese Government Loan                             |
| 1980 | Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Kazuo Aichi visits Nepal                                 |
| 1978 | Inauguration of Japan-Nepal Parliamentarians' Friendship League  |
| 1978 | State visit to Japan by Their Majesties King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya                                |
| 1977 | Krishna Raj Aryal, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal visits Japan                                    |
| 1977 | Iichiro Hatoyama, Minister for Foreign Affairs, pays an official visit to Nepal                          |
| 1975 | Their Royal Highnesses Prince Gyanendra and Prince Dhirendra visit Japan                                 |
| 1975 | Junko Tabei becomes the first woman to scale Sagarmatha  |
| 1975 | TIH Crown Prince Akihito and Princess Michiko attend the Coronation of His Majesty King Birendra         |
| 1974 | Janakpur Agriculture Development Project starts under Japanese Technical Cooperation                     |
| 1974 | Gyanendra Bahadur Karki, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal, visits Japan                             |
| 1970 | TM King Mahendra and Queen Ratna visit Japan to attend Osaka Expo'70                                     |
| 1970 | TIH Prince and Princess Hitachi attend the Wedding Ceremony of Crown Prince Birendra                     |
| 1968 | Establishment of Japanese Embassy in Kathmandu   |
| 1968 | Appointment of Hidemichi Kira as the first resident Ambassador to Nepal                                  |
| 1967 | HRH Crown Prince Birendra goes to Japan to study at Tokyo University                                     |

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 1965 | Establishment of Royal Nepali Embassy in Tokyo  |
| 1965 | Inauguration of Japanese Society in Nepal   |
| 1964 | Inauguration of the Japan Nepal Society   |
| 1962 | Dr. Iwamura starts medical service at the United Mission Hospital in Patan  |
| 1960 | Official visit to Nepal by TIH Crown Prince Akihito and Princess Michiko  |
| 1960 | State visit to Japan by Their Majesties King Mahendra and Queen Ratna   |
| 1956 | Establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan & Nepal (Exchange of Notes on September 1)  |
| 1956 | Successful conquest of Mt. Manaslu by the Japanese Expedition team  |
| 1956 | Seijiro Yoshizawa, Ambassador to India, attends the Coronation of HM King Mahendra  |
| 1952 | Eizaburo Nishibori receives an audience with HM King Tribhuvan  |
| 1951 | Exchanges between Japanese and Nepali sports delegates at the First Asian Games in New Delhi  |
| 1936 | Prof. Syun-ichi Amanuma visits Nepal to inspect buildings after the great earthquake  |
| 1933 | Kousetsu Nousu, renowned artist for his Buddhist paintings, and Tetsuzo Ide are invited to Nepal by General Keshar Shumsher J.B. Rana   |
| 1913 | Junjiro Takakusu, Reverend Ekai Kawaguchi and Ryutei Hasebe visit Lumbini and meet Prime Minister Chandra Shumsher J.B. Rana            |
| 1912 | Bunkyo Aoki enters Nepal on his way to Tibet  |
| 1902 | Departure of a group of 8 Nepali students for study in Japan  |
| 1899 | Arrival in Nepal by the first recorded Japanese visitor Reverend Ekai Kawaguchi, a Buddhist monk who stays in Nepal on his way to Tibet |

**Source:** Website of Japanese Embassy in Kathmandu.

**APPENDIX - 8**  
**Japan-Nepal Relations**

**2013**

- Dispatch of Election Observer Mission to Nepal for the election to the second Constituent Assembly (November 15, 2013)

**2012**

- Visit to Nepal by Minister for Foreign Affairs Koichiro Gamba (Overview) (April 29, 2012)
- Meeting between Chief Cabinet Secretary Osamu Fujimura and Hon. Mr. Narayan Kaji Shrestha, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal (February 2012)
- Japan-Nepal Foreign Ministers' Meeting (January 2012)

**2010**

- Extension of the Duration of Dispatch of Self-Defense Forces Personnel to the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) (November 2010)
- Extension of the Duration of Dispatch of Self-Defense Forces Personnel to the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) (July 2010)
- Visit to Japan by Mr. Ram Chandra Paudel, Vice President of Nepali Congress Party (March 2010)
- Extension of the Dispatch of the International Peace Cooperation Corps to the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) (March 2010)

**2009**

- Extension of the Dispatch of the International Peace Cooperation Corps to the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) (August 2009)

- Assistance by the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security to the project "Delivering Essential Reproductive Health Care, Education and Counselling to Vulnerable Women and Adolescent Girls of Nepal affected by conflict" in the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal (April 2009)
- Visit to Japan by Hon. Dr. Baburam Bhattarai, Minister for Finance of Nepal (February 2009)

## **2008**

- Preliminary Assessment by the Election Observation Mission of the Government of Japan to Nepal (April 2008)
- Statement by the Press Secretary on a United Nations Helicopter Crash in Nepal (March 2008)

## **Before 2007**

- Meeting between Mr. Masahiko Koumura, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mrs. Sahana Pradhan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal (October 2007)
- Statement by Press Secretary on the Resignations of Maoist Ministers in Nepal (September 2007)
- Statement by Press Secretary on Establishment of Nepalese Interim Government and other developments (April 2007)
- Dispatch of Arms Monitors to the United Nations Political Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) (March 2007)
- Emergency Grant Aid to Nepal for Emergency Humanitarian Assistance (March 2007)
- Statement by Ms. Misako Kaji, Minister, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, on Agenda item 117: Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 - Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives, authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (March 2007)

- Statement by the Press Secretary on the establishment of the United Nations political mission in Nepal (UNMIN) (January 2007)
- Statement by the Press Secretary on the comprehensive peace agreement reached between the Government of Nepal and the Maoists (November 2006)
- Speech by Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Akiko Yamanaka at the reception for the 50th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Nepal (September 2006)
- Statement by the Press Secretary on the Reinstatement of the House of Representatives in the Kingdom of Nepal (April 2006)
- Statement by the Press Secretary on the Deteriorating Situation in the Kingdom of Nepal (April 2006)
- Statement by the Press Secretary on the Arrest of Persons concerned with Political Parties and Others in the Kingdom of Nepal (April 2006)
- Statement by the Press Secretary on the Local Elections in the Kingdom of Nepal (February 2006)
- Statement by the Press Secretary on the Arrest of Persons concerned with Political Parties in the Kingdom of Nepal (January 2006)
- Statement by the Press Secretary on the Dismissal of the Prime Minister and the Dissolution of the Council of Ministers in the Kingdom of Nepal (February 2005)
- Statement by H.E. Ms. Yoriko Kawaguchi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan: Agenda Item 3 "Accession of Cambodia & Nepal" (September 2003)
- Statement by the Press Secretary on the Maoists' Announcement to Withdraw from the Peace Talks and to Terminate the Cease-fire Agreement with the Government of the Kingdom of Nepal (August 2003)
- Statement by the Press Secretary on the Announcement on a Cease-fire between the Government of Nepal and the Maoists (January 2003)



- Statement by the Press Secretary on the Dismissal of the Prime Minister and the Dissolution of the Council of Ministers in the Kingdom of Nepal (October 2002)
- Emergency Aid for Flood Disaster in Nepal (July 2002)
- Statement by the Press Secretary on the Current Security Situation in the Kingdom of Nepal (May 2002)
- Statement by the Press Secretary on the Current Situation in the Kingdom of Nepal (November 2001)
- Statement of Prime Minister at the Demise of Their Majesties King and Queen of Nepal (June 2001)
- Visit to Japan by H.R.H. Crown Prince Dipendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev of the Kingdom of Nepal (April 2001)
- ODA Loan to Nepal (March 2001)
- Statement by the Press Secretary on the Start of Joint Verification of People in the Refugees Camps in Eastern Nepal (March 2001)
- Japan-Nepal Summit Meeting (Summary) (August 2000)
- Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori's Visit to Bangladesh, Pakistan, India and Nepal (August 2000)
- Emergency Assistance to Nepal for Flood Disaster (August 2000)
- Meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Japan and Nepal (June 2000)
- Visit to Japan of a Delegation of the House of Representatives of the Kingdom of Nepal, headed by Mr. Taranath Ranabhat, Speaker of the House of Representatives (February 2000)

**Source:** <http://www.mofa.go.jp/region/asia-paci/nepal/archives.html>

## APPENDIX - 9

*May 15, 1978      Reply Speech From His Majesty King Binredhra Bir Bikram Shah Dev At A Banquet Hosted In His Gracious Honour By His Imperial Highness Crown Prince Akihito On Behalf of His Majesty The Emperor Of Japan*

YOUR IMPERIAL HIGHNESSES,  
EXCELLENCIES,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

1.      On behalf of the Queen and on my own, I would like to express our gratitude for the kind invitation which has made our visit possible to this friendly country. I had the opportunity of spending some months here as a student, and it is no small pleasure for me to be back again.

2.      Over a century ago, one would have noted some basic similarities between our countries. Nepal was handicapped by being land-locked and Japan suffered from being sea-locked, nevertheless, both locked, additionally, within the parameters of social values, beliefs and traditions of their own. Both had remained isolated for centuries shut, as it were, in a agrarian existence. But in the march of time nothing remains the same. There appeared in the western as well as eastern horizons an upsurge of change when the arduous difficulties posed by the sea had been surmounted by new ships and new discoveries. Traders, explorers and builders of empires broke new frontiers through the voyages across the high seas. Fresh and exciting challenges together with new threats were imposed upon our traditional countries.

3.      In their search for survival in the new situation, Nepal and Japan, because of their geo-political reasons, reacted to it each in her own way. The Japanese people developed a vision of a new awakening, absorbing the sciences and technology pioneered in the most advanced countries of the day. Without forsaking her glorious traditions, Japan adopted and set into motion the new engines of progress and change.

Where Nepal withdrew to live in a cocoon of isolation, Japan reacted by welcoming, however cautiously, the western technology. Of the nations of the East it is Japan that has been able to preserve a harmony between the past and the present.

4. I feel, it is this paradox of tradition and modernity from which one can distill the essence of Japanese wisdom which lies in seeking harmony not only between man and society or between man and nature alone but also among nations. It is this instinct that probably underlines the desire for homogeneity among the people of Japan. The desire for harmony has given the Japanese people a collective will for progress and has made this nation an unparalleled symbol of unity, strength and integrity. The same concept is perhaps reflected in their bond with nature- with the sea, the mountains, the trees and the gardens. It is perhaps this endearing love for harmony between man and nature that may have allured so many Japanese to the peaks of the Himalayas.

5. Although, geographically, Nepal and Japan are far apart, our two cultures share some features in common. Perhaps the single-minded pursuit of peace which characterizes the foreign policies of both our countries grow out of this shared cultural ethos. In a complex world where man gets bewildered and confused by events, both the people of Nepal and Japan look for harmony and peace, inspired, may be, by one of Nepal's greatest of sons, Gautam, the Buddha.

6. We feel that, unless a relationship based on the understanding among nations is established, there is no doubt that the structure of peace, so essential for the survival of man, will for ever remain fragile, leading peoples to misgivings and distrust of each other, and possibly resulting into conflict, war and a global conflagration. This is where, I believe, Japan can assume the role of an active partner for peace, harmony and co-operation. Our two governments have a close identity of views on major international issues of our times. We both agree that co-operation between the rich Northern countries and the poorer Southern countries is a historical imperative. Japan, which itself has through sheer industry become one of the most economically advanced countries, can well appreciate the challenge posed by the need to harmonize the interests of the developed and the developing countries. With the growing co-

operation and continuing friendship so happily subsisting between our two countries, I feel that Nepal-Japan relations could become a model of harmony between countries at different stages of economic growth.

7. Your Imperial Highnesses, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to request you all to join me in a toast

- to the good health, long life and happiness of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan,
- to the continued peace, prosperity and happiness of the people of Japan, and
- to the growing friendship and co-operation between Nepal and Japan.

THANK YOU !

**Source:** HMG, Ministry of Communication, Department of Information, 1982. *Speeches, Proclamation and Messages*, HM King Birendra (1972-81), Kathmandu: HMG Press. pp. 196-197.

## APPENDIX - 10

*May 17, 1978      Speech From His Majesty King Binrednra Bir Bikram Shah Dev At  
The Presentation Ceremony Of The Emblem Of Tokyo University*

MR. PRESIDENT,  
EXCELLENCIES,  
FACULTY MEMBERS,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

1.      Today as I stand here in this august gathering of scholars, I am being reminded of the days I spent here at the University of Tokyo. The streets, the halls, the trees and the lawns along with several faces so familiar to me combine together to present a picture that I have always treasured in my memory. I might tell you that I cherish those days very fondly. Over a decade has elapsed since the days I spent in these academic groves in company of the teachers and scholars who helped me answer my curiosity with knowledge. Indeed, I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to acknowledge my grateful thanks for the help I received from them.

2.      Visiting a University such as this, I am also reminded of the changing roles of the Universities with changing times in human history. There were times when a man of intellect began a university asking almost primal questions. There were also times when a University taught of nothing but the classical subjects. Later, as the intellectual curiosity of man was directed towards religious orders, theology along with philosophy occupied the centre of attention. Still later, universities started with new faculties like jurisprudence and medicine. For centuries in the East and the West, centers of learning such as these universities concentrated with singular passion for knowledge on finding answers to questions about the life beyond rather than about the life here and now. Theologians, philosophers and logicians along with many more intellectuals of the day showed more concern with the redemption of the human spirit than with the fulfillment of the basic material needs of the day-to-day life. Here in Japan, for instance, the Confucian ethics, blended with Buddhism and the Shintoist

beliefs, continued to provide the Japanese society with an intellectual groundwork from which modern Japan could emerge and sustain itself.

3. It was only with the advent of modern times that a new journey towards realism and modern sciences began. Gradually, universities began introducing subjects like Economics "the dismal science", and Engineering which if anything has to deal with cement, concrete and mortars. Today Universities like modern megalopolis have become multiversities concentrating on multiple disciplines ranging from the science of management to cybernetics. Nonetheless, universities have now-a-days become centres of intellectual exploration probing upward into space and groping into the depths of the oceans for more knowledge about our own planet and the universe around us. If researches have continued in these important areas, it is no less important to make knowledge relevant to the daily lives of the masses, especially those unfortunate ones who lie in the developing two-third parts of the globe.

4. The most advance knowledge of the day has not been adequately applied to cope with some of the major challenges, the global economy has been recently subject to. Since the last few years the energy crisis has posed serious problems to many countries. Nepal is no exception to this. Like Japan, although to a less degree, we in Nepal have painfully experienced the oil crisis and we are being obliged to look for an alternative. Of the solar, the wind and the water resources, Nepal seems to be particularly blessed with her abundant water resources. But she is handicapped by want of knowledge, lack of technology and the dearth of skill in utilising these resources. This is an area where our own university at home can look for co-operation from countries that excel in these fields.

5. The energy crisis in Nepal has to be viewed from another angle. Until now, since we have had no energy resource like coal, electricity or natural gas, we have relied heavily upon our forests which having been felled for hundreds of years have led to the problem of soil erosion in a scale that seriously calls our attention. It is interesting that while industrial countries have suffered from the pollution of one kind, the non-industrial nations share their problems of pollution of a different order.

It is where I think educational institution like Tokyo University can help in making minds meet to tackle such problems. For science and knowledge should not be held a monopoly of any institution or a country when they become not only more refined but also enriched through the multiplication of tests based on shared experiences.

6. It is my presumption that an educational institution to become a University should reflect the welfare and happiness not of man, but of men, not of individuals but of nations representing that community of scholars which dedicates itself to the exploration, dissemination and diffusion of Knowledge for all men and women of today and tomorrow.

7. Mr. President, it was a proud privilege and pleasure for me to be a student in Tokyo University. For many years to come I shall look back upon the very fruitful time I have had here and in Japan. With these words, my I thank you and through you the Members of the Academic Council of the University of Tokyo for the presentation of the Emblem of the University to me. I assure you that I shall treasure this Emblem as a token of the honour extended to me and the very purposeful time I had the privilege to spend at this University.

THANK YOU !

**Source:** HMG, Ministry of Communication, Department of Information, 1982. Speeches, *Proclamation and Messages*, HM King Birendra (1972-81), Kathmandu: HMG Press, pp. 198-199.

## APPENDIX - 11

*May 17, 1978      Reply Speech From His Majesty King Binredhra Bir Bikram Shah  
Dev At A Dinner Hosted In His Gracious Honour By His  
Excellency Mr. Takeo Fukuda, Prime Minister of Japan*

YOUR EXCELLENCY PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA,  
MADAME FUKUDA,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

1. I thank you for this dinner you have kindly hosted for us tonight. Your references to our country and our people reflect a genuine feeling of mutual respect and warmth with which the two countries treasure their friendship.

2. In the middle of the last century, the isolation of the sea-locked Japan has been broken by the invention of modern navigational ships. Now, only a century later, we have a similar story of isolation of a landlocked nation broken by modern jet aircrafts. I feel happy to recollect that it took me only seven hours of travels to reach Tokyo through a trans-Himalayan route. I assume that it only reflects the growing links between Nepal and Japan.

3. Although formal ties between our two countries were established only in 1956, traces of contacts between our two peoples went before the beginning of the present century. Moved by a sense of piety, and sometime inspired by a spirit of enquiry, monks and men of letters from Japan visited Nepal from time to time. I am told, as early as 1902, a group of Nepalese students came to study at institutes of learning in Japan. This trickle of visitors has since increased with much larger numbers of Buddhist pilgrims coming to the land of the birth of the Buddha, mountaineers coming to climb the highest peaks in the world, tourists and entrepreneurs, agricultural experts, consultants for a number of projects and Japanese youths as volunteers to assist in Nepal's development. From Nepal, too, students of various disciplines, trainees, scholars, businessmen and bureaucrats have travelled to Japan. Today almost everywhere in Nepalese society, Japanese goods and mechanical gadgets are objects of great familiarity and use. Somewhere in the broad picture of our bilateral relationship we therefore discern a certain appreciation for each other.



4. While Japan has forged ahead overcoming barriers of her geography, Nepal, although benefitting from friendly co-operation, has still to live within the constraints of her geography and low levels of technological skills. This is where a new challenge confronts Nepal. It is a challenge to our socio-economic development, made more complicated by our geo-physical setting and the lack of a viable technological and organizational infrastructure. Nonetheless, our people have accepted the challenge with a sense of dedication having the principle of self-reliance very much in their mind. As a result of Japan being economically advanced and Nepal still struggling to develop her economy, the partnership that there could be between our two countries is, at the moment, limited. It is here that a give-and-take relationship based on understanding, harmony and co-operation is called for.

5. MY Government welcomes extension and deepening of bilateral co-operation with Japan in all areas. This is something that makes us project into a future relationship where we feel we have potentials to look for with confidence. We are indeed happy to visit your country in a \climate of increased understanding and friendship. I feel hopeful that in future this relationship would be meaningfully directed in a way reflecting the close affinity that has been developing on the basis of a deeper understanding of each other's aspirations and values.

6. Finally, expressing once again, our sincere thanks for this dinner and the warm feelings, may I ask you to join me in proposing a toast

- to the health, long life and happiness of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan,
- to the health and happiness of the Prime Minister and Madame Fukuda,
- to the continued prosperity and happiness of the people and government of Japan, and
- to the further development of friendship and co-operation between Nepal and Japan.

THANK YOU !

**Source:** HMG, Ministry of Communication, Department of Information, 1982. Speeches, *Proclamation and Messages*, HM King Birendra (1972-81), Kathmandu: HMG Press, pp. 200-202.

## APPENDIX - 12

*May 18, 1978      Speech From His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev At  
A Banquet Hosted In Gracious Hanour Of His Majesty The  
Emperor Of Japan*

YOUR IMPERIAL HIGHNESSES,  
EXCELLENCES,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

1. We are thankful for the friendly feelings and cordial hospitality accorded to us by the government and people of Japan. Our people look upon the people of this land and their traditional institutions with esteem and their achievements with admiration.
2. After having met people of different walks of life, including government leaders, I am pleased to observe that there exists among the people of this land understanding about Nepal, her people, her problems, and her aspirations. At the other end, the Nepalese people have always found it stimulating to cultivate ties with the people of this land. Your experience in national development also inspires us with an example that a nation in unity and determination can become independent, free and prosperous overcoming all constraints in the way of modernization.
3. The diligence, thrift and skill with which post-war Japan rehabilitated itself through a peaceful pursuit of higher standards of living for its people show that such a policy of peace is worthy of emulation by all countries. Were these resources put to use to produce means of destruction, the miraculous growth of your country's economy would have been a complicated affair. The nexus between peace and the healthy development of a country's economy, which Japan's post-war experience testifies to so eloquently, is at the root of my proposal that Nepal be declared a Zone of Peace. A country which is barely on the road to development can ill-afford, much less squander away, its critical resources in matters other than in accentuating its economic growth. It is this consideration that has prompted us with a desire to

institutionalise peace in our country so that we may fully engage ourselves in the pursuit of economic development. I am hopeful that Japanese friends will be guided by the finest in their own post-war experience in their response to my proposal that Nepal be enveloped in a Zone of Peace.

4. The simplicity, discipline, and the zeal with which the Japanese people have devoted themselves to industry show that it is only with such qualities and a unity of purpose that a nation comes to occupy a place of eminence among the developed countries. In our efforts to bring into full play the forces of development we get encouraged by your example as much as by any other. We also feel that the path we travel should be designed to meet our own needs and aspirations learning, at the same time, from the best in the experiences of others. It is this spirit which guides us in our march to progress.

5. Tomorrow we leave for visits to other parts of Japan where we look forward to familiarise ourselves with the excellence and dexterity with which the people of this country have been able to combine modern comforts with the heritage of their past and their ability to build a new on the foundations of old. As we carry back with us impressions of the warm and friendly feelings of the people and government of Japan we wish you and your people continued progress, peace and prosperity.

6. Finally, may I ask all our distinguished guests here to join me in proposing a toast

- to the health and happiness of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan,
- to the health and happiness of members of Imperial Family, and
- to the further development of friendship and co-operation between Nepal and Japan.

THANK YOU !

**Source:** HMG, Ministry of Communication, Department of Information, 1982. Speeches, *Proclamation and Messages*, HM King Birendra (1972-81), Kathmandu: HMG Press, pp. 202-203.

## APPENDIX - 13

*May 26, 1978      Message To The Nation From His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev On Returning Home After Completion Of a Week-long State Visit To Japan And Informal Visits To China, The Philippines And Malaysia*

BELOVED COUNTRYMEN,

1. We are happy to return home upon completion of a week-long state visit to the friendly country of Japan.
2. The discipline and dedication with which Japan, over the years, achieved success in economic frontiers making her join ranks among the advanced countries of the world have left a lasting impression on us. As an independent country, Nepal has the advantage to learn what suits her best from the experiences of others. While our people expect co-operation from advanced friendly nations in some tangible forms to uplift the Living standard of our people, we must never forget that we must continue to keep self-reliance as an inspiring motto for all time. In this context, we also look forward to a greater exchange in matters of experiences that the developing countries have to offer each other for mutual advantage.
3. In Japan, it was pleasing to note the desire of the Japanese leaders to deepen Nepal-Japan relations co-operating us in our developmental efforts. We wish to express our thanks to Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress, the members of the Imperial Family, Prime Minister Fukuda as well as the people and the government of Japan for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to us during our visit.
4. On this occasion, I also feel it appropriate to express my sincere thanks to Mr. Hua Kuo-feng, Chairman of the Communist Party of China and Premier of the State Council, Vice-Premier Teng Hsiao-ping, President Ferdinand E. Marcos and Madame Marcos of the Philippines, His Majesty the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong and Prime Minister Datuk Hussein On for their warm hospitality, cordial exchange of views and

friendly understanding we have had with them in course of our informal visit to these countries.

5. In the end, we wish to thank our brother His Royal Highness Prince Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah and other members of the Council of the Royal Representatives together with the Prime Minister and other members of the Council of Ministers for having carried out their duties in our absence. We also thank all our beloved countrymen for their dutifulness in continuing developmental works and maintaining peace in the country.

May Lord Pashupatinath bless us all !

JAI NEPAL !

**Source:** HMG, Ministry of Communication, Department of Information, 1982. Speeches, *Proclamation and Messages*, HM King Birendra (1972-81), Kathmandu: HMG Press, p. 204.

## APPENDIX - 14

*September 1, 1981 Message From His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev  
On The Occasion Of The 20th Anniversary Of The Non-Aligned  
Movement*

1. Today we are celebrating the Twentieth Anniversary of the nonaligned movement. Proclaimed two decades ago in Belgrade with the objective of promoting a climate of peace and international co-operation by easing global tension and remaining aloof from military blocs, the principle of nonalignment has today developed into a widespread and dynamic movement. This movement, it can be rightfully claimed, is the embodiment of the aspirations of the majority of the nations of the World to live in peace free from fear and threat or pressure from any quarter, and to seek to develop themselves on the basis of international amity and peaceful co-existence among nations. Besides providing a strong moral support for the cause of World peace in the last twenty years, the movement has also proved a source of inspirations in the struggle against colonialism, racism, arms race, economic disparity and backwardness.

2. Nepal has, from the start, been playing a significant role for promoting the positive attributes of the non-aligned movement and channelising them towards constructive activities. Nepal's unflinching faith in the principle of non-alignment is clearly demonstrated by the fact that it is incorporated in the Constitution of Nepal as the directive principle of our foreign policy. We believe that our proposal to have Nepal declared a Zone of Peace will prove to be a significant corollary to the non-aligned movement's fundamental purpose to strengthen and broaden the efforts for World peace.

3. Finally, While reiterating Nepal's commitment to the basic ideals of the movement, I would like to express my best wishes for the attainment of these objectives of the non-aligned movement.

## APPENDIX - 15

*September 3, 1981      Key-Note Address From His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev To The U.N. Conference On The Problems Of The Least Developed Countries Held In Paris*

MR. PRESIDENT,  
YOUR EXCELLENCIES,  
DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES:

1.      Might I begin by extending my very warm congratulations to you, Mr. President, on your election as Chairman of this first U.N. Conference on the least development countries? The people and government of Nepal joining hands with the member states of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) together with the economic Commission for West Asia (ECWA) wish me to convey to you and, through you to all distinguished delegates assembled here, their warm felicitations and best wishes for a successful outcome of this important gathering. I am confident that with your wise counsel- as also the spirit of co-operation of all delegations- the conference will be able to achieve its objectives.

2.      I would also like to express our gratitude to the Government of the Republic of France for hosting this conference here in Paris as well as for the arrangements made for our comfort. Paris has long since acquired the distinction of being the cultural metropolis of the world. In the past, she has been associated with several historic conferences concerning peace, security and the advancement of man. The present one, I imagine, is a part of this continuing process of creating a just and equitable world economic and social order.

3.      Indeed, Mr. President, the other day when my prime Minister informed me that I had the honour of being invited to address this conference it was with a feeling of ambivalence that I welcomed the news. Was it really a pleasure and privilege to speak in such an international forum as one of the least developed countries or was it

just a cause of being abjectly helpless in a world where the majority of mankind today lives more with misery than joy or a sense of fulfilment.

4. It is indeed painful to realize that one's country typifies the case of the least developed but when one comes to think of the importance that several for a under the U.N. auspices have successively been devoted to the grave problems of poverty and underdevelopment, I really consider it an opportunity for Nepal that the mantle of a spokesman on behalf of the least developed countries of Asia and the Pacific region has fallen on her shoulders. It is a privilege, therefore, Mr. President, to voice the cries of the millions of suffering humanity who in their distress and misery call for the co-operation and help of the international community hoping that the minimum that they ask for shall be given unto them and that they shall survive with at least a modicum of human dignity and decency they deserve.

5. As I have been asked to represent the nine countries in Asia and the Pacific I deem it my duty to recall them here. I speak for the friendly countries of:

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Democratic Yemen, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives, Nepal, Samoa and the Yemen Arab Republic.

6. I must confess that in view of the rather short notice I have had, I and my ambassadors have not had much time at their disposal to contact the respective Heads of State or their governments. I must also admit that much as I would have liked to visit these countries, I have not had the occasion to do so either. My knowledge of them, therefore, is somewhat limited, based as they are on the information I could gather in Kathmandu. I am, however, confident that the problems we all face are, by and large, not different from one another's.

7. Of the nine countries represented in this forum, four are landlocked- Afghanistan, Bhutan, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Nepal. Two are sea-locked island countries- Maldives and Samoa. The two on the southern tips of the Arabian peninsula have mountain deserts with poor resource base- the Democratic Yemen and the Yemen Arab Republic. Finally, we have among us the friendly



country of Bangladesh which has fallen prey to both the natural and man-made disasters several times in the past. Of these nine countries, while the majority of them have been victims of colonialism; those that have remained independent have suffered no less for want of contact due to their land-locked or sea-locked nature. Consequently, they have lived in remoteness and isolation for centuries. Thus, if the toil and tenacity in their history have helped them to maintain their freedom the constraints of geography, on the contrary, have added to the difficulties.

8. The problems and challenges that each of us face are at once unique as well as common. For instance, if demographic explosion assumes almost alarming proportions in Bangladesh and Nepal, a high rate of fertility at present, I am told, poses but a little threat to the Kingdom of Bhutan. Similarly, while the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen pines for an easy access to drinking water. Nepal deplores its inability to manage its abundant resources in waster. Besides, if the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) and the Yemen Arab Republic (YAR) have suffered for want of an opportunity to concentrate exclusively on development, the island country of Samoa has trailed behind mainly on account of its remoteness. Maldives, another island country, almost engulfed in the Indian Ocean, suffers from the shortage of skilled manpower to implement its development programmes which is not uncommon in the least developed countries.

9. Perhaps, it can fairly be assumed that all of the nine countries have had their societies rooted in traditional culture and almost all, if not all of them, are still struggling to preserve their identity and heritage seeking for, at the same time, ways of improving the lives of their people.

10. One of the major constrains that the least developed countries face in common is the lack of basic infrastructure for development. While the land-locked countries have to bear the burden of overland trade that in time of escalating oil price can prove like the last straw on a camels' back, the poor economics of island countries with strings of islets can hardly afford their own system of trans-shipment. As a result communications through these islands are difficult and expensive. As for the land-

locked countries, with their rugged terrain of mountains and high altitudes, building up infrastructure can be arduously toilsome. Afghanistan, Bhutan and Lao People's Democratic Republic can be cited as examples. In the case of my own country Nepal, although much attention in the past has been devoted to the task of building roads, they have proved to be not only time-consuming but beyond the reach of ordinary means. The terrains of the Democratic Yemen and the Yemen Arab Republic yield no better prospects either.

11. If the accidents of history or the constraints of topography can cause underdevelopment, no less important a role is perhaps played by the vagaries of nature or the extremities of climate. After all, we are all countries closer to the equator and of the south. One wonders if this is treally the reason for underdevelopment. Perhaps not quite. It can also be said that by and large in one time or another we have played the role of "soft" states. Questions may be asked as to whether there has really been the political will, the determination and firmness to rise above subsistence and poverty. And this a moot question.

12. The tension and rivalry between the powers and the superpowers get at times too high and too portentous a reality to ignore. Destabilization or imbalances in one form or a sphere lead to the destabilization in another region or form and, in the process, peace gets dislocated. It is my conviction that since peace and stability are *sine qua non* to economic development, one might ask how much of this precondition has been really allowed to prevail in the developing world? Socio-economic disturbances dislodge not only peace but the disrupt development. How many of the developing and the least developed countries have been left in peace to develop in their own ways? If the scourge of colonialism plagued them in the past, the search today for an expanding order or spheres of influence have set them on a road to turmoil. Likewise, the desire to sway others into one's fold invites collusion, violence or upheavals and makes fratricide more a rule than an exception.

13. Therefore the most important quest that the least developed countries might like to make universally is peace and non-interference both in word and deed. They

would also urge for a recognition of the principles of equality and justice irrespective of race, colour, creed or political beliefs. Then finally, despite a spectrum of diversities that they represent, in the name of human fellowship, they undoubtedly seek co-operation which can take a manifold shape or form depending on the complexities of the problems they face currently.

14. When one thinks of the form of the fields of co-operation it is good to bear in mind that almost all countries represented here have expressed concern about population explosion. Not only does it bode ill for the eco-system of a country but can cause impediments in the development of friendly or peaceful relations between nations. We must, however, realize that high fertility is a by-product of underdevelopment, a problem that calls for a human solution.

15. A subsistence economy based on agriculture is a common feature of the least developed countries. They all tend to agree that raising agricultural productivity should receive priority. The most heavily populated among us, Bangladesh, for instance, has consistently emphasized the need to advance the agricultural sector for which it seeks to develop irrigation network, increased use of fertilizer, both organic and inorganic, and above all, better quality seeds. In Nepal, our emphasis has been on similar lines.

16. When I speak of development of agriculture in Nepal I wish to draw attention of the international community to the dire need of the ecological conservation especially water and its main-spring, the forests. In fact, agriculture, water and forests are so inter-related with one another, that the one cannot be conceived of without the other. Emphasis and priority, of course, may vary depending upon consideration of several exigencies. We, for ourselves, wish to make the optimal use of our river-systems, the main basis of development, for energy, agriculture, transport-both internal and trans-national-and above all, for forest conservation among other things. But we have a limited capability in human and material infrastructure. Nevertheless, we wish to move ahead hoping that the international community will respond to co-operate with us and the countries of our region will work in concert for both the

mutual and regional benefits. Indeed, it is the sector that holds the key to meet our development needs including the protection of our eco-system.

17. Mr. President, I feel certain that almost all the countries I represent here have some key sectors which they consider worthwhile to give priority over others. Indeed, they would choose to build up their infrastructure with a view to develop the sector they consider most vital. Often a lack of human and administrative infrastructure proves to be a hurdle for which co-operation is sought in the knowledge of technology, skill and management. Since knowledge of this kind constitutes the basic wealth of a nation, co-operation in this sphere becomes desirable. We shall, however, have occasions to discuss these priorities when each country will speak for itself.

18. For the moment, therefore, I shall confine myself to generalities and try to picture the man who is the epitome of poverty in a least developed country, indeed one who is the subject of this historic conference-the poorest of the poor.

19. A poor man in a least developed country- and his number runs into millions- suffers from poor nutrition. He is vulnerable to diseases. His average life span is short. He lives in huts where squalor perpetually surrounds him. He is illiterate both in letter and skills. He does not get his meals regularly but when he does he is haunted with the fear of where his next meal will come from. He is clad in rags if at all. He walks without a pair of shoes. Lack of hygiene, minimal food or contagious diseases have inflicted some scars on his body. He lives mostly in villages-remote and inaccessible to the rest of the world or in slums or shanty towns. The water he drinks is neither safe nor clean. He is either unemployed or underemployed. But when he is employed he is overworked and underpaid.

20. He suffers from apathy and ignominy. From birth to death he remains a destitute. Usually he dies an infant but if he does survive, dearth and want haunt him to his end. Flood, famine, drought and other natural disasters continually plague him. If he is a villager, he may be landless, if he is a town-dweller he rarely has a roof over his head. When the price goes up, the quality and quantity of his food goes down,

because his income can no longer buy him the food he needs. His wife, if she is pregnant, can only have a worse fate.

21. He cannot buy books for his children, nor pay fees for the school, let alone the tool-box he would love to buy for them to make their ends meet. When he falls ill, he cannot pay fees to a doctor, nor can he buy the medicine for himself let alone getting better amenities of life in these crises. He can neither read nor afford to buy a newspaper. A radio transistor is a luxury to him. Many of his kin never see a bicycle. Starvation and death stare him at his face as in medieval times. Indeed, for him, times have not changed since the dark ages. And as though these afflictions were not enough, it is he-and this is the greatest irony of all-who gives birth to the largest number of children thus spreading and multiplying misery to a dark universe of destitution./When death comes to him finally he seems to be the happier than those he has left behind him.

22. Mr. President, I speak of a destitute at such length not merely because this occasion places on me the special obligation to speak for him, but even more, because his story is perpetrated on a scale and dimension that indeed is tragic in view of what man can do for man and yet is not done. Today, man has tried to reach out to Mars, but has he really reached his next of kin, his own neighbour and another *homo sapiens* shaped after his own image?

23. This, distinguished delegates, is the greatest anomaly of our times. We have so much wealth, opulence and luxury on the one hand, and so much of dearth, want and degradation on the other. Right now, when I speak for the destitutes of the world, I hear an infant crying for bread. And we give him bombs. He looks for compassion but we inflict him with cruelty. And while he seeks peace, we prepare for war.

24. I do not intend to accuse any country or power because manufacturing bombs have ceased to be the monopoly of anyone. I only speak of the tragic situation, the irony and the contradictions that beset man and his world today. Indeed, the presence of the poor and hungry among us is a challenge to all value systems, all our religions, all our moral principles or political theories. It is also a challenge to the United

Nations System and all its organs and agencies, not to speak of the Charter of which we are all signatories. It is also an affront to humanity, to man's better judgment, his cherished ideals and institutions. But above all, the presence of destitutes on such a colossal scale is an insult to modern man, his science and conscience, his ingenuity and technology, his dreams and his deeds.

25. Can one really take pride in poverty then? And it is where I feel there is need for the international community to come forward to help us to help ourselves and commit us all to support the proposed Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980's. For this programme carries with it the dreams and hopes of the least developed countries and shows them the prospect of an oasis dimly appearing in the horizon of an endless desert.

THANK YOU !

**Source:** HMG, Ministry of Communication, Department of Information, 1982. Speeches, *Proclamation and Messages*, HM King Birendra (1972-81), Kathmandu: HMG Press, pp. 311-317.

## APPENDIX - 16

*September 9, 1981      Message To The Nation From His Majesty King Birendra Bir  
Bikram Shah Dev On Return Home After Concluding The  
Address To The U.N. Conference On The Problems Of The  
Least Developed Countries Held In Paris*

BELOVED COUNTRYMEN,

1.      We are happy to return home today after concluding the address to the United Nations Conference on the problems of the least developed countries held in Paris. As guests of the French Government while in Paris we also took this opportunity to pay unofficial visits to the friendly countries of Greece, Italy and Pakistan en route.

2.      In addressing the Paris Conference on behalf of the least developed countries of Asia, the Pacific and the West Asian regions, we endeavoured to fulfil our responsibility to project, as realistically as possible, the problems we face in common in these countries. With the participation of almost all members of the United Nations at this conference, we were happy to note that the venue provided the opportunity to exchange views with the representatives of several friendly countries on our problems of development. I am hopeful that this conference will prove helpful in achieving a quicker pace of development in Nepal and the other least developed countries by contributing to resolve their problems of underdevelopment through increased co-operation.

3.      Additionally, the visit also afforded us an opportunity to meet and exchange views with French President Francoise Mitterand, U.N. Secretary General Dr. Kurt Waldheim, some distinguished personalities assembled for the Paris Conference, as well as with President Zia-Ul-Haq of Pakistan while en route. We wish to express our gratitude to all for the warm welcome extended to us. .

4.      We would like to thank our brother, His Royal Highness Prince Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah, and all members of the Council of Royal Representatives for having shouldered our responsibilities during our absence. We would also like to thank the

Council of Ministers and all servants of the Nation for having carried out day-to-day administration in accordance with the laws of the land. Finally, as usual, we would also like to extend thanks to all our beloved countrymen for the discipline and dedication shown by them in the larger interest of our motherland.

May Lord Pashupatinath bless us all !

JAI NEPAL !

**Source:** HMG, Ministry of Communication, Department of Information, 1982. Speeches, *Proclamation and Messages*, HM King Birendra (1972-81), Kathmandu: HMG Press, pp. 311-317.



## APPENDIX - 17

*April 9, 1960      Statement Made to the Japanese Press and T.V.*

We are very happy to come to Japan and meet Their Imperial Majesties and the people of Japan.

I have brought with me the expressions of warmest friendship and affection from My Government and people to the Government and people of Japan.

The relations between our two countries have all along been very close and cordial. I am hopeful that this visit of ours should make this relation still more solid and strong. We follow a policy of being on the friendliest terms with every country in the world. We are prayerful that the present world tension would ease up in due course for the good of the entire humanity.

I thank you for the welcome you have accorded us all.

**Source:** Department of Publicity, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, HMG/Nepal, 1967, *Proclamation, Speeches and Messages*, HM King Mahendra (Vol. 1), (July 1951-Dec. 1960), Kathmandu, p. 177.

## APPENDIX - 18

*April 9, 1960      Speech in Reply at a Banquet Held by Their Imperial Majesties of Japan*

YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES,

At your Majesties' invitation, I have come to the capital of Japan and am happy to meet all the distinguished friends gathered around. The references made by Your Imperial Majesty to the Consolidation of our relations since the establishment of the diplomatic relations between our countries have touched a responsive chord in my heart. It should be an appropriate occasion to recall the representation made to me by my brother, His Royal Highness Prince Himalaya concerning the welcome accorded to him at the time he came here. I could legitimately hope that this State visit of mine should further strengthen the friendly bonds so happily subsisting between us.

The stories regard in the great strides being made by Japan in every fields of development are current not only in my country but in countries all over Asia. The heights attained by your country are indeed staggering.

In our country, institutions suitable for a modern democracy are being established. Endeavours are being made to exploit our national resources for the betterment of the standard of lives of our beloved people. The interest being shown by Japan in the development of Nepal has been very much appreciated by us. Co-operation of this nature should be beneficial to both our countries.

For the sincere ovations exhibited, I would express my warmest sentiments of gratefulness. I hope that we too shall have the opportunity to reciprocate such feelings in our own country.

I now propose a toast to the health and happiness of Your Imperial Majesties and for the prosperity of the people of Japan. Thank you all.

**Source:** Department of Publicity, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, HMG/Nepal, 1967, *Proclamation, Speeches and Messages*, HM King Mahendra (Vol. 1), (July 1951-Dec. 1960), Kathmandu, p. 178.

## APPENDIX - 19

*April 20, 1960      Message to the People of Japan*

From the very bottom of my heart I rejoice to meet Their Imperial Majesties of Japan and the Japanese people by coming here at the friendly invitation of Their Majesties. We must not omit to convey to the people of Japan the hearty greetings of my people that I have brought along with me.

The relations between our two countries have been of the most friendly nature; and I am very keen that this present visit of mine should pave the way to the further consolidation of those bonds.

Our principle in foreign matters is to live in peace with all our neighbours both far and near. We are very much solicitous that the noble endeavours being made to ease the international tension should prove to be a thumping success, so that the world may be a happy place for the whole of mankind to live.

We are very much thankful to you all for the warmth of the welcome and the cordiality of the hospitality extended to us.

**Source:** Department of Publicity, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, HMG/Nepal, 1967, *Proclamation, Speeches and Messages*, HM King Mahendra (Vol. 1), (July 1951-Dec. 1960), Kathmandu, p. 178.

## APPENDIX - 20

*April 21, 1960      Speech at a Banquet Held by heir Majesties in Honour of Their Imperial Majesties of Japan*

In course of our short sojourn in Japan we have had the opportunity of visiting the important cities, the important industrial and important cultural centres. For all this, I am very much thankful to Their Majesties and the Government and the people of Japan.

The friendly parley we had in the course of this visit with the Emperor of Japan and the leaders of the Japanese Government have augmented the friendly relations happily subsisting between our two countries for such a long time.

Like Japan, Nepal is also an ancient country. She has her own history, her own culture and civilization. We too do have our own national counterpart to the Japanese heroes who would gladly lay down their very lives in defence of the independence, the culture and civilization of the country.

In modern times, we have fixed up our own targets for the national development and the betterment of the living standard of the people via media our own institutions. We would not like to exert pressure on any country, just as we would not tolerate the pressure being put on us by others. We do consistently follow the policy of being friendly with all countries in the world generally and with Asian countries particularly, on the basis of equality and mutual respect. In contravention of this, should any country be bloated with its own prowess and entertain aggressive designs on the independence and sovereignty of others, or should they like to get involved in mutual acrimonies I would not call it other than sheer folly and the height of self-pride. Two countries can live in peace and harmony only on terms of mutual goodwill and friendship. Unilateral accusations based on no foundation whatsoever should weaken rather than strengthen the relations between two countries. There could never come a time for such acrimony in the relations between Nepal and Japan.

For the opportunity to participate in the function and to meet you all, I must express my thankfulness to you all present on the occasion.

I would request you all who are around here to wish the best of health and happiness to Their Imperial Majesties.

**Source:** Department of Publicity, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, HMG/Nepal, 1967, *Proclamation Speeches and Messages*, HM King Mahendra (Vol. 1), (July 1951-Dec. 1960), Kathmandu, p. 179.

March 30, 1970

**SPEECH BY HIS MAJESTY THE KING INAUGURATING 'NEPAL DAY' IN  
EXPO-70 AT OSAKA, JAPAN**

*Mr. Commissioner General and*

*Chairman of Japan Exposition Association,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

We heard at home with great interest for many days about the great international exposition 70 inaugurated by His Imperial Majesty Emperor Hirohito in the famous and ancient city of Japan. It will be no exaggeration to say that the exposition is a great and unparalleled one by virtue of its being the latest among its kind so far organised in different parts of the world.

This compels one to say that this spectacular progress made by the Japanese does indeed deserve appreciation.

We all Asian peoples and our country Nepal in particular feel proud of this great achievement of Japan. It is a matter of glory for us as well to remark that Japan, when compared to other advanced countries of the world, has taken a lead in many things in the world today.

In conformity with Nepal's decision to participate, though in a humble way, in this exposition at the invitation of Japan, we have been assembled here in connection with Nepal day. Nepal the birth place of the Buddha and motherland of industrious, heroic and disciplined Nepalese, decorated with the highest snow covered peaks of the world is a small but holy land. We take pride in our culture, tradition and history. We don't care even for our life to safeguard and maintain our sovereignty and Asia and we have our own way of life, political system social and economic objectives. It has been our endeavour to live in peace and amity and we will continue to do so on the basis of equality with all countries of the world specially neighbouring countries. It is so perhaps because we belong to the land where the Buddha was born. We do not want to be involved in unnecessary quarrels as far as possible. We present our case as well as our view points before others with patience and in a peaceful manner. It has been our objective as well as our purpose to contribute our mite to the welfare and

benefits of the world community by keeping intact our own way of life like other countries of the world.

We do not want to do anything detrimental to others but if anybody take destructive attitude towards, us, we shall not hesitate to take the offensive.

We have come here to share the joy of Japan and extend hearty felicitations to Japanese people on their success and achievements.

There are numerous similarities between Japanese and Nepalese peoples. Both the peoples feel happy in mountains and natural environment and have earned a name for diligence and industry. The relation between Nepal and Japan has been strengthening since the establishment of the formal relations between the two countries. The official visit of popular Crown Prince and Crown Princesses of Japan to Nepal and the pleasant tour we had in Japan in 1960, still fresh in our mind, as well as the recent visit to Nepal of Japanese Prince and Princess Hitachi has brought our two countries still closer. We hope that the relation between our two countries will steadily grow stronger to the mutual benefit.

The study undertaken by our son Crown Prince Birendra at Japanese University has intensified the understanding between Japan and Nepal.

It will sound strange to many of the people present here that most of the goods displayed in the Nepalese pavillion in Expo 70 are made by hard-working Nepalese people with their own hands. We believe that Nepalese goods will cheer the hearts of those who have interest in handicraft products and who are after the goods with unique artistic touch.

I wish to avail of this opportunity to extend hearty congratulations to those who have worked hard day in and day out in organising this massive exposition and to all others concerned.

On behalf of my own and my entourage as well my government and Nepalese people, I convey hearty greetings and good wishes to the government and people of Japan. I express good wishes for the success of this exposition.

**Jaya Nepal!**

**Source:** HMG/Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Department of Information, 1971, *Proclamations Speeches and Messages* (1970), (Vol. VII), HM King Mahendra, Kathmandu, pp. 11-13.

## APPENDIX - 22

**March 31, 1970**

**REPLY SPEECH BY H.M. THE KING AT A BANQUET GIVEN BY PRIME  
MINISTER EISAKU SATO OF JAPAN IN HONOUR OF THEIR MAJESTIES  
THE KING AND QUEEN**

*Mr. Prime Minister and Madame Sato, Your Imperial Highness,  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It was indeed a great pleasure for us to come to Japan and visit the world exposition at Osaka.

The exposition true to its central theme has admirably presented the various facts of peace and progress through harmony and all that could lead towards better understanding of each other, towards better utilisation of the bountiful fruits of nature, towards better living environment and enjoyment of life by harnessing the cultural, scientific and technological achievement.

Ten years ago I had the pleasure of visiting Japan for the first time. Even in this space of a decade, my wife and I could readily note the advances made by Japan in all aspects of its economy. The new Tokaido line that carried us to Osaka, for instance, is indeed a triumph of modern technology. At Osaka we were much delighted by the magnanimity of the exposition and by its relevance in bettering the lot of mankind. We in particular would like to appreciate and laud your country for organizing a world exposition of such magnitude. This exposition we are sure would provide an appropriate means in furthering the trade and economic cooperation between our two countries, among the countries of Asia and between Asia and the rest of the world.

Your Excellency, we have been greatly moved by the kind remarks that you have just made about Nepal and by your feeling reference in particular to growing Nepal-Japan friendship. Nepal is making its earnest efforts to achieve accelerated economic growth with a view to providing basic economic requirements to her

people. In the field of economic development Nepal is a late member. Therefore, Nepal has still inadequate infrastructure for economic development.

This reality has led up to give top priority to the development of agriculture, transport and communication, education and power. Such reality and our aspiration are all embodied in our national Five Year Plan for economic development that the country has been pursuing for the last several years. In this connection I wish to refer with appreciation to the growing interest taken by Japan in our development through loans and other forms of assistance.

In order to augment its development resources, my government has laid due emphasis on its export promotion and the expansion of the economic and trade relationship with an increasing number of friendly countries. To this end, Nepal has been successfully pursuing a policy of trade diversification. However, as a landlocked country, we are confronted by problems of transit unlike other developing countries. In view of our unique problems we look frankly for special understanding, co-operation and facilities from more developed friendly countries like Japan in our development of trade through possible preferential treatment for our goods.

The growing trade and economic relationship between our two countries manifest the successful pursuit of our trade diversification programme. The trade between the two countries has registered manifold and significant increases in the last few years, but there is room for further development. Besides, we hope that our humble participation in the exposition would be of value to us in our development and industrialization efforts and in the promotion of our tourist trade as well.

It gives us further satisfaction to note the close understanding between our two countries that has long prevailed. The great Himalayas inspire both our peoples. Mountaineering in the Himalayas and pilgrimage to Lumbini, the birth place of Lord Buddha in Nepal, highlight the common bond between our two countries.

We also appreciate the keen interest shown by your country for the betterment and economic advancement of our region and the whole of Asia. We commend your



offer and efforts towards sharing the fruits of industrial advancement and technological achievement with other developed countries, particularly of Asia.

We are deeply touched by the warm reception and hospitality of Their Imperial Majesties, the government and people of Japan. On behalf of my own, my wife and entourage I wish to convey to Your Excellency our appreciation for your hospitality and the good wishes of the government and people of Nepal for the continued progress and prosperity of the people of Japan.

Now with these words, Mr. Prime Minister, Your Imperial Highness, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, may I propose a toast to Their Imperial Majesties, the Emperor and Empress?

**Source:** HMG/Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Department of Information, 1971, *Proclamations Speeches and Messages* (1970), (Vol. VII), HM King Mahendra, Kathmandu, pp. 14-16.

September 12, 1985

**ADDRESS FROM HIS MAJESTY KING BIRENDRA BIR BIKRAM SHAH  
DEV ON THE OCCASION OF THE NEPAL NATIONAL DAY AT TSUKUBA  
EXP '85 JAPAN**

*Excellencies,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I think you, and through you to the government and people of Japan for giving me my wife and members of my entourage an opportunity to participate in the Nepal National Day of Expo '85. I would also like to express gratitude for your kind words of welcome and everything you have done to make this event possible.

Expo '85 demonstrates an example of the triumph of man and the fellowship of nations. It also shows what man can achieve for man when his energy and skill are devoted to the creative works of peace. Behind all these mysteries lies that wonder-man, and his ability to create works of marvel and beauty after his vision and resolution. Man is the wonder and awe of creation. But his fact also places upon him responsibility to channel his creative energy to works of peace, harmony and joy rather than to the artifacts of violence and disruption.

Indeed no country has seen or experienced both the creative as well as the destructive aspects of the modern technology as has Japan in this century. As for me, coming from Nepal-which we have proposed to be declared a Zone of Peace-we wish and pray for peace in Japan and peace throughout the world.

The display at this Expo will be a source of joy and curiosity for all of us. It will enable us to take a look into the future, the world of the twenty-first century as it slowly begins to unfold itself before us. We also hope that the expo will give the knowledge as to how man could live happily with nature in company with all those with whom he has kinship.

In conclusion, I wish to congratulate all those who have made this Expo an event worthy to be chronicled in the annals of modern Japan. As for me I am happy to be back in Japan once again.

Long live Tsukuba Expo '85 !

Long live Nepal-Japan friendship !

And long live the international brotherhood that this unique Expo implies !

**Thank you !**

**Source:** His Majesty's Government, Ministry of Communication, Department of Information (1987). *Proclamations Speeches and Messages*, B.B.S. Dev. (From 18 Feb. 1982-30 March 1987 Kathmandu: His Majesty's Government Press, Singha Durbar, p. 134.

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| 1.     | S.L.C.                                   | HMG/N  | 2029          | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |
| 2.     | P.C.L., Certificate in Civil Engineering | TU   | 2037          | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |
| 3.     | B.Ed.                                    | TU   | 2045          | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |
| 4.     | B.E. Civil Engineering                   | TU   |               | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |
| 4.     | M.A., Political Science                  | TU   | 2047          | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |
| 5.     | Research Scholar for Ph.D.               | T.U., Political Sc.,<br>Topic: International<br>Relation / Nepal-Japan<br>Relation | 1956-<br>2013 |                 |

### Political History

- Minister of Nepal for Ministry of Physical Planning and Works from 21/02/2001 to 23/07/2001
- Minister of Nepal for Ministry of Local Development from 2000 to 2001
- Member of Parliament, 1991 – 2008
- Member of House of Representative, elected from Bajhang - (1991-2008)
- Member of Finance Committee in the House of Representative
- Member of several committees under parliament
- Regional Commander in the Movement for Restoration of Democracy
- Member of Nepali Congress General Council
- Member of Nepali Congress General Convention
- Member of District Committee, Nepali Congress
- Elected Member of Parliament (Upper House) from 26/05/1991 to 26/06/1995
- Elected Member of Parliament (House of Representatives) from 24/05/1999
- Chairman, Special Committee, National Assembly
- Member Joint Committee of the Two Houses of Parliament
- Member of Remote Area Development Committee of Parliament
- Member of Parliamentary Committee for Natural Resources
- Executive Member of IPU (Inter-parliamentary Union)

- Member of the Committee for Communication for Joint Houses of the Parliament
- Member of Central Department, Nepali Congress, for Water Resources
- Member of Central Department, Nepali Congress, for Schooling and Training
- Executive Member Nepal Students' Union (Nepal Vidyarthi Sangha)
- Member of Peoples' Movement for Democracy 1990AD

### **Social History**

- President of Kiwanis Club of Nepal since 2010 to till the date
- Chairman of School Management Committee (SMC), Shree Geetamata Higher Secondary School since 1991 to 2012
- Chairman, Management Committee, GM Community College, Dallu, Kathmandu from 1991 to till the date.
- Founder Chairman, Citizens Integrated College, Bijeshwori, Kathmandu
- Social Worker for Health, Human Rights and Education

### **Publications in Nepali**

सुरेश मल्ल, “कांग्रेस भेलाले दिएको नीति निर्देशन,” नेपाल पुकार, काठमाडौं : २०४८ ।

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### **Upcoming Publication**

A collection of short stories (in press)

### **Travel**

The USA, the UK, France, Germany China, India, Hong Kong, Japan,

### **Membership**

- Life Membership of Nepal Red Cross Society
- Director, Lions Club of Kathmandu,

### **Other Information**

- Jailed for about four years due to my active participation in the Movement for Democracy in late 1980s.
- Jailed after the Royal Coupe in 2005.
- Held in detention in the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy
- Started my political career from student politics from 1975 and till now I am working for Nepali Congress at different positions

## **ABSTRACT**

Nepal-Japan relations are significant or have rationale for the study in the contemporary foreign policy of Nepal because of Japan's increasing role in the economic development of Nepal. As Japan is the major donor country and Nepal's relations with Japan become one of the important aspects of Nepalese economic foreign policy. The Japanese aid to Nepal has no political interest attached to it. The lack of adequate materials in this direction further inspired this researcher to make research on such an important topic in the present context. This research, thus, would make original contribution in the history of bilateral relations between Nepal and Japan. This research has intended to achieve the objectives of analyzing Nepal's political, economic, socio-cultural, and educational relations with Japan during the period. In order to achieve the above stated objectives, a number of research problems/questions have been formulated, which include questions like these:

What is the current status of existing formal political relations between Nepal and Japan? Have the political relations undergone any substantial changes in post-April 2006 days? What is the current status of existing economic relations between Nepal and Japan? What are the major areas where Japan is providing economic aid and assistance to Nepal? What is the current status of socio-cultural relations between the two countries? Is the socio-cultural relations between them improving in the present time? What about the growing educational relationships between them? What is the current status of people-to-people informal relations between the two countries?

In course of collecting data, the secondary sources have been used, which, among other things, include the study of published and unpublished books, research reports, mimeographs, academic journals, newspapers, government and non-governmental documents, and speeches made by political actors and the official websites of the two countries. The search has certain limitations too. The research has covered the period in between 1956 and 2013 and has analyzed political, economic, socio-cultural and educational dimensions of the bilateral relations only..

This study has been organized/divided into seven chapters. The first chapter is introduction which deals with the key elements of research methodology including the nature and significance of the study, objectives, statement of the problem, hypotheses, and the methods of data collection, processing and interpreting, and the organization of the study. The second chapter is the short introduction/background to/of Nepal and Japan which in a nutshell deals with the geographical, socio-cultural, economic, political characteristics of both the countries that would be helpful in analyzing the background of the existing relationships between them or to analyze the root causes of growing relationships between the two countries and to recommend the practical measures to further heighten the relations in

future. The third chapter is existing political relations between the two countries which focus on the formal diplomatic and political relations in different periods in history in post-1956 days. The fourth chapter is existing economic relations between the two countries which focuses on the description of Japan's aid and assistance to Nepal in different sectors/dimensions in post-1956 days and finally help in the modernization of the traditional Nepalese economy in the present context. The fifth chapter deals with the growing socio-cultural and educational relations between the two countries in post-1956 days followed by summary, conclusion, key research findings and recommendations; appendices and references.

Nepal-Japan relations have become one of the most crucial areas of Nepal's relations with friendly countries of the world. It is one of the most vital areas of Nepal's contemporary foreign policy. Nepal's relations with Japan are important in the present day world are important from political, economic/business, socio cultural and educational point of view.

As the third largest economic superpower of the world, Japan is providing massive economic aid and assistance to Nepal and has contributed in the socio-economic development of Nepal. In the contemporary economic foreign policy, Japan is the first largest donor to provide economic aid and assistance to Nepal. In such context, Nepal's relation with Japan is one of the important aspects of its economic foreign policy. Nepal has maintained good friendly relations with countries of the world, including Japan. Japan's economic aid and assistance to Nepal is particularly important aspects of Nepalese contemporary foreign policy. In the context of 21st century; it is essential to view the relations with Japan in a more realistic and practical manner based on the aspirations and expectations of the people in both the countries in the changed national, regional and global context.

### **Nepal and Japan: Similarities and Dissimilarities**

Nepal and Japan have many similarities, though they have a number of dissimilarities too. Despite their physical distance, Nepal and Japan are close neighbors having cultural heritage and bonds since decades. Geographically, they have different characteristics. Historically, both Nepal and Japan have enjoyed independence and were colonized by western powers, when almost the whole world was compelled to taste the bitter taste of colonialism and imperialism. Culturally, both the countries have many similarities in their societies which can be utilized for strengthening bilateral relations between them. Economically, Nepal has to get a lot from Japan, which is the third largest economic superpower in the world. Religiously, Buddhism is the second largest religious group in Japan (40.5%) after Shintoism (54.1%). This factor may be one of instruments in cementing the bilateral relations between them. Economically Nepal has to successfully attract Japanese aid and assistance in its socio-economic development, culturally; both Japan and Nepal are regarded as the richest countries in the world. Technically speaking, Japan is one of the most advanced countries in the world Japan is progress in science and technology has helped in its

modernization programs. Nepal is far behind in respect to science and technology. In this context, Nepal's relation with Japan becomes highly important for Nepal, which is very backward in this respect. Politically, Nepal and Japan have many similarities. Both of them are practicing British model parliamentary system with nominal head of the state and strong/affective head of the government. The political characteristics of liberal democracies including global values of democracy are found in both the societies, though Japan is regarded as one of the stabilized and matured democracy in the world, though there were frequent changes in government and have political instability. Since 1993 onwards, there have been government instability and within 20 years, there have been fourteen government changes in Japan. Constitutionally, both Japan and Nepal have accepted the global values of democracy including civil rights human rights, freedom of press, vibrant media, rule of law, independent judiciary, to mention a few. In the field of international relations, both Japan and Nepal are the active players in international politics and are the members of a number of regional and international organizations including the UN. Japan as he member of group of four strongly advocating for the democratization and the Japan is an advanced country noted in the diplomacy world for quality education and technical and scientific education, whereas Nepal is far behind in this respect. Psychologically, the Japanese have high sentiments of nationalism, patriotism and love to the nation and the people. The Japanese are civilized polite and disciplined people.

### **Historical Background**

The history of Nepal-Japan relations goes back to 19th century when Japanese monks visited Nepal on their way to Tibet. The political relations with Japan became closer after the two countries established diplomatic relations on July 28, 1956. Japan was the 7th country to establish such relations with Nepal. During the time of King Tribhuvan, small activities were done in this direction. King Mahendra, who is regarded as the architect of modern Nepal's foreign policy, in course of reducing Nepal's over dependency on India, stressed the policy of diversifying Nepal's foreign relations and started the policies of establishing diplomatic relations with maximum countries of the world. In this connection, his coronation ceremony in 1955 became the best platform to prepare a background for the establishment of diplomatic relations with countries of the world including Japan. King Mahendra (1955-1971) gave top priority in its with Japan and accordingly established diplomatic relations with Japan in 1956, established permanent embassy in Tokyo and became instrumental in setting up Japanese embassy in Kathmandu. King Mahendra sent his son Crown Prince Birendra to study in Japan and he visited Japan and welcomed visiting Japanese prince and princess in Nepal. King Birendra (1971-1989) also gave priority in Nepal's relations with Japan and visited Japan. The institutions of monarchy of both the countries became instrumental in promoting and strengthening the bilateral ties. Japan also provided unconditional support to the ZoP proposal, put forwarded by King Birendra in his coronation ceremony in 1975. In post-1990

periods, the democratic Nepal gave importance to its relations with Japan and accordingly, the Nepalese high level dignitaries, including Prime Minister G.P. Koirala visited Japan. The Japanese Prime Minister Mori's visit in this connection can be considered as the landmark event in the history of bilateral relations. In post-April 2006 and more specifically in post-April 2008 days, the elected governments of Nepal gave importance to its relations with Japan. The exchanges of visits at political level can be considered as important events in the history of bilateral relations.

### **Political and Diplomatic Relations**

The study of political and diplomatic relations between the two countries is one of the important dimensions of the total relations. Both the countries established diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1956. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between them, the relations between them have always been cordial. Both the countries share common political aspirations in many sectors, including firm commitment to the principle of peaceful coexistence, sovereign equality of the states, nonalignment, and faith in the UN. In the international field also, both the countries had also shared common approach in most of the issues, including the restructuring of the UN, the two countries have shared common views in many areas and intending to strengthen good friendly relations based on mutual understanding and respecting each other's aspirations, interests and needs. The five principles of Panchsheel and peaceful coexistence are the basis of their relations. The political relations between the two countries, during the periods of king Mahendra, and king Birendra have always been very cordial. Such relations during the short period of king Gyanendra and under the republican era (2008-till now) have also been marked as excellent ones. The bilateral relations under the republican era (2008-till now) have also been very cordial. The exchanges of high levels political visits of both the countries in different periods of history between the two countries have took the relations to different height. These are the charms, attractions and beauties of the existing bilateral relations between the two countries.

### **Nepal and Japan Economic Relations**

The study of Nepal and Japan economic relations is one of the important dimensions of contemporary economic foreign policy. Japan is one of the few countries in the world which has played significant role in the economic development of Nepal in a number of ways including providing large amount of economic aid and assistance to Nepal. Nepal's relations with Japan, thus, have become one of the crucial areas in the dimension of Nepal's foreign aid politics and diplomacy. Japan's economic support to Nepal is without any political interest attached to it and, thus, is an ideal relation in the history of aid politics and diplomacy. The JICA office was also established in 1978 which played very significant role in the socio-economic development of Nepal. Japan has been supporting Nepal in its socio-economic development since 1969. In the present context, the Japanese aid and assistance has covered almost all aspects and dimensions of Nepalese economy. Currently, Japan is one of



the major donors of Nepal playing significant role in the socio economic development of Nepal. Since 1969, Japan has been involved as a development partner in the socio economic development programs of Nepal. The Japanese loan assistance and grant assistance started in Nepal since 1969 and 1970 onwards respectively. Since 1970 onwards, Japan has started providing Technical Cooperation with the dispatch of Japan Overseas Volunteers (JOCVs).

In the contemporary Nepal, Japan is one of the largest donor countries which have played significant role in the all round development of Nepal by providing economic assistance to Nepal including important three components-grant assistance, credit assistance and technical assistance. Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) in post-1956 day was involved in the socio-economic activities of Nepal, Japan's economic aid and assistance can be classified under Japanese grant assistance credit assistance and technical assistance to Nepal which have been contributing much for the economic development of Nepal. Japanese Grant in Aid is one of the aspects of Japan's economic assistance to Nepal. Some of the major projects which were completed under Japanese aid are Kathmandu Valley Power Distribution, System and Improvement Project, Teaching Hospital, Kanti Children's Hospital, Improvement in Load Dispatching Center, Construction of Food Storage, National Tuberculosis Centre, Expansion of Radio Broadcasting Network, Construction of Bridges in Kathmandu Valley, Kathmandu Bus Terminal, Improvement of Transport Capacity, Water-Induced Disaster Preventing Centre, Kathmandu Water Supply Facility and Thapathali Bridge (HMG, MoFA, Sept. 1996, p. 12). Japan's grant in aid includes a number of areas including its grant in aid to the extension of transportation and communication networks in Nepal, modernization of Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) micro-hydropower development. Japanese technical assistance to Nepal is one of the components of Japanese to Nepal under which Japan provides technical co-operation to Nepal with the dispatch of Japan overseas co-operation volunteers (JOCVS) in implementing/handling technical co-operation projects. In post-1995 days, Japan has dispatched 1400 technical experts and 838 JOCVS. The Japanese economic and technical support include a number of areas and dimensions including in environmental sector, technical sector in the contemporary Nepal, Japan is one of the largest donor countries which have played significant role in the all round development of Nepal by providing economic assistance to Nepal including important three components- grant assistance, credit assistance and technical assistance. Japan's financial assistance is provided both in specific project financing and program support. The technical support includes the services of Japanese experts, fellowships and equipment support and the development of human resources in Nepal. Besides these, Japan is also providing volunteer's service as part of technical support to meet Nepal's need of medium level human resources. In general, the Japanese aid has been utilized in a number of areas including in agriculture, health, education, rural, water supply, radio transmission, extension of transportation networks, electricity generation (including in rural areas), ground water development and the development of skilled and trained human resources. The bilateral trade

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The Japanese mountaineering expeditions teams coming to Nepal is another source of attraction in the bilateral economic ties and the source of income for Nepal. Japan's aids to health sector in recent years have become particularly important. The exchanges of visits of the Finance Ministers, Commerce Ministers are also one of the sources of improving further economic relations between them. In the present context of globalization, there is better scope in future to promote further relations in a number of areas including in the fields of trade, investment (e.g. FDI), and human resource utilization. Though the limited volume of trade has not benefitted Nepal, new further scope for this can be identified in future. In the context of growing population and the growing unemployment in Nepal, it would be helpful for Nepal to "further improve relations with Japan in increasing job opportunities" in the international job market and "there is good prospect in this direction

### **Recommendations**

Japan, thus, can become "a good employer to thousands of unemployed Nepalese" though 'thousand of Nepalese are still working in Japan legally or illegally'. According to one statistics, there are altogether twenty thousand Nepalese citizens living in Japan and many of them are supposed to be students studying in different Japanese universities. The present

scenario is not satisfactory from employment point of view and Nepal has to convince Japan (which currently is the third largest economy in the world).

### **Nepal-Japan Socio-cultural Relations**

Nepal-Japan socio-cultural and religious relations have certain distinctive characteristics. In many respects, both the countries share common socio-cultural and religious values. Buddhism and Lumbini, the birth place of Lord Buddha have become important instruments in strengthening and cementing the existing socio-cultural and religious linkages/ties. Both the countries share common tradition history faith in religious beliefs and more important to these, the lovers of peace and nature. In the fields of arts, literatures, culture, traditions and languages, both the countries have many similarities. Both are rich in cultural heritage and traditional cultures. The Buddhist monks visiting Nepal have also become the instruments in promoting socio-cultural and religious relations between the two countries. The religious relations between the two countries are also particularly notable. Japan has also played significant role in the beautification of Lumbini by constructing beautiful statues of Lord Buddha. As both the countries share common socio-cultural values, the study of socio-cultural relations between the two countries are also gradually becoming important

### **Nepal-Japan Educational Relations**

The study of Nepal-Japan educational relations is one of the important dimensions in this direction in last few years; the educational relations between the two countries are growing very rapidly. The educational relation between them is gradually becoming more and warmer. Japan has played very significant role in the development of human resources in Nepal by providing financial support to the student getting higher education in the different universities of Japan. Japan has been providing scholarships to Nepalese students. Besides government level formal relations, the people to people informal relations are also substantially increasing in the contemporary world. These factors have the study of Nepal-Japan relations very important in the present context. This research, thus, intends to make original contribution in this direction. The informal people to people relations between them are also gradually increasing. Both the countries have their own unique and distinctive cultural and historical identities. The increasing people to people relations in different sectors are the attractions/charms and beauties of the bilateral relations. A number of socio-cultural and religious institutions established in both the countries have also played role in cementing the bilateral relations. The cultural exchanges between the two countries have also been particularly remarkable in this direction. In short, the growing socio-cultural and religious ties between the two countries have become one of the important aspects/dimensions of overall Nepal-Japan relations in the present context. The educational relations between the two countries in the present context have been very cordial and friendly. Japan is playing very significant role in the development and training of human resources in Nepal by providing

scholarships and training opportunities to Nepalese students to study in Japanese Universities which have become very fruitful in the all round development of the nation. This has led to the production of high skilled human resources in Nepal. A large number of students (total twenty thousand living in Japan now many of them are students studying in Japanese universities) are enjoying the educational opportunities granted by Japan under scholarship programs. Japan currently is the destination of many Nepalese students and it has become important attractions to them. Japan has also been providing educational support to Nepal in the construction of primary school building in the remote rural villages. This has contributed, for the development of rural education in Nepal. The School Sector Reform Programs are another attraction in this direction which intends to provide environmental sanitation facilities to school children in remote VDCs of Nepal.

Nepal-Japan bilateral relations should travel beyond the current existing relationships. In order to further tighten/strengthen the existing bilateral relations between the two countries and preserve its beauty in the days to come.

In short, Nepal-Japan relations in the present contemporary world, has been very cordial and friendly and the relations have been cemented with the high level visits taking place in post-1956 days. The embassies in Tokyo and Kathmandu have been instrumental in further cementing the relationships and taking it to new height. The messages exchanged occasionally at head of the state and head of the government levels have further nourished the ties. The economic support provided by Japan to Nepal in the form of grant/aid, loan technical assistance soft loan, material support further tightened the existing bilateral relations. The cultural ties between the two countries at people level have further added charms, beauties and attraction in the existing relationships. Japan's educational supports to Nepal in the form of scholarships to Nepalese students to study in different universities of Japan have led to the development of human resources of Nepal. In recent years, the Japanese educational support to primary schools in remote areas in different forms including the construction of physical infrastructures and training to the teachers of Japanese language have further tightened the existing ties.