

PRESS RELEASE

Embassy of Japan
P.O. Box 264, Kathmandu

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Exhibition of NETSUKE (Contemporary Wood-Carved Craft)

The Embassy of Japan and the Japan Foundation will hold an exhibition entitled "**NETSUKE: Contemporary Wood-Carved Craft**" at the Embassy Hall, Panipokhari, Kathmandu. The exhibition is open to the general public, free of charge, from 19th to 31st January 2019 everyday between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m., including Saturdays and Sundays.

The exhibits called "Netsuke" are small art pieces which were developed and flourished in the Edo period (1603-1868), initially served both functional and aesthetic purposes. As the traditional Japanese dress kimono have no pockets, women would tuck small personal items into their sleeves; men suspended their tobacco pouches, pipes, purses, and other items of daily use on a silk cord passed behind their *obi* (sash). These hanging objects are called *sagemono*. *Netsuke* was attached to the other end of the cord to prevent the cord from slipping through the *obi*.

The exhibition focuses on contemporary netsuke, consisting of 65 masterpieces by 46 artists. This exhibition introduces the visitors to explore and enjoy the Japanese culture, art, skills and playfulness embodied in the small masterpiece of *netsuke*.

Both the Japanese and Nepali people share values of contemporary art and traditional culture, and this exhibition will highlight them. It is hoped that the exhibition of *netsuke* will become a new practical role as a 'toggle', connecting Japan and Nepal.

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