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## Preface

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By virtue of their common Asian heritage, there is a strong cultural link between the people of Japan and Nepal. Asian values are deeply rooted in the society and people in both countries.

Although Japan and Nepal are geographically distant, a spiritual bond has existed since the introduction of Buddhism to Japan in the 6th century. Long before official contact between the two countries, the people of Japan and Nepal established links and friendship a century ago. Last year, the centenary of the arrival of the first group of Nepalese students in Japan was observed with various commemorative events. It is a matter of pride for us that the Government of Nepal has chosen our country in its efforts to bring new knowledge and technology from overseas. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries, Japan has been an active and major partner of Nepal in her development activities.

Japan attaches great importance to international exchanges in various spheres including people to people, cultural and academic contacts. Japan and Nepal have mutually developed an excellent friendly relationship based on century old historical and spiritual ties. Over the years this cordial relationship has grown manifold covering diverse fields. The exchange of visits by the royal families, prime ministers and members of parliament in recent years signify the importance both our countries place on each other and have contributed to a deepened understanding.

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