

**Reception Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Establishment  
of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Nepal  
and the Visit of President Paudel  
Speech by State Minister for Foreign Affairs HORII Iwao  
held on February 2, 2026 at Iikura Guest House**

The Right Honourable President Paudel of Nepal and Madam First Lady,  
Distinguished Guests,

Good evening. Namaskar.

I am HORII Iwao, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all this evening to the reception to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Nepal.

It is my honour to celebrate this special occasion with President Paudel. I cordially welcome the Right Honourable President's and Madam First Lady's visit to Japan.

Japan and Nepal have nurtured friendship on the foundation of the long history of people-to-people exchanges, beginning with student exchanges which date back to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Over the 70 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1956, ties between the two countries have become stronger than ever.

Japan and Nepal have become indispensable friends over the past 70 years through exchanges in various areas such as mountain climbing, study abroad, agriculture and technical cooperation at the community level. They have made bilateral relations even closer.

When I visited Nepal as Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs in 2017, I myself witnessed how Japan and Nepal have been working together hand in hand on the ground.

To those who have contributed to Nepal's development in areas such as infrastructure; to those who, as members of parliament, have actively supported the advancement of Japan-Nepal relations; and to the approximately 270,000 Nepalese citizens living in Japan who are making wide-ranging contributions; to all those who have devoted themselves to promoting Japan-Nepal relations, I wish to express my profound respect and heartfelt gratitude.

Together with the distinguished guests with me here today, I am fully committed to working hard towards the next 70 years of Japan–Nepal relations.

In closing, I sincerely hope that President Paudel and Madam First Lady's visit to Japan will be a memorable one. I also wish for the continued prosperity of the people of Nepal and further strengthening of the cordial relations between our two countries.

Thank you. Dhanyabād.