**“Nepal-Japan Festival 2026” Opening Ceremony**
**Remarks by Parliamentary Vice-Minister FUJII Kazuhiro**

The Honourable Mr. Khadak Raj Poudel, Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, The Honourable Ms. Sunita Dangol, Acting Mayor of Kathmandu Metropolitan City, Mr. Saurabh Jyoti, Chair of Executive Committee for the Nepal-Japan Festival 2026, Ambassador MAEDA, distinguished guests, Namaskar, everyone.

I am FUJII Kazuhiro, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan. I came from Tokyo yesterday to attend the “Nepal-Japan Festival”.

It is my great pleasure to be together with you for this festival, which commemorates the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between Japan and Nepal.

At the outset, on behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to convey my heartfelt condolences and sympathies to those who lost their lives and those affected by the great flashflood on August 26.

The people of Nepal have become even closer neighbors for the people of Japan, as there are 330,000 Nepali people living in Japan. Because of this, the people of Japan have been deeply saddened by the devastation caused by the great flashflood.

Japan stands with the people of Nepal. The Government of Japan has provided a series of humanitarian assistance, including providing relief goods and DNA testing equipment along with dispatching the Japan Disaster Relief Team.

As a similarly disaster-prone nation, Japan commits to lending a helping hand for the swift recovery and reconstruction of Nepal by making the best use of our know-how and experience.

Japan and Nepal have nurtured our friendship on the foundation of our long history of people-to-people exchanges, beginning with student exchanges which date back to the early 20th century.

Since the two countries established diplomatic relations 70 years ago in 1956, our ties have grown stronger than ever.

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

I myself went to see sites such as the Nagdhunga Tunnel, which was built with Japanese cooperation, and Durbar Square, which is under restoration in cooperation with Japan. I have seen with my own eyes how Japan has contributed to the betterment of the lives and economic activities of Kathmandu citizens.

I sincerely hope that through today's festival and the various exchanges between our people, the friendship between the two countries will develop further and be passed on to future generations.

Together with all of you, I will also work hard towards the next 70 years of Japan–Nepal relations.

Let me conclude my remarks by wishing for the continued prosperity of the people of Nepal and the further strengthening of the cordial relations between our two countries.

Thank you. Dhanyabād.