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Country Paper

# Second Asian Forum Conference Tokyo, Japan



*Presented by :*  
*Mr. Sukunta Lal Hirachan*  
*President*  
*Federation of Contractors Association of Nepal*

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# Second Asian Forum Conference

*January 21-23*

*Tokyo, Japan*

Mr. President ,  
Honorable Chief Guests ,  
Officials of the Ministry of Land Infrastructure and Transport,  
Officials of the International Harmonization for Building and Housing (HBH),  
Distinguished Guests,  
Organizing Committee Members of 2<sup>nd</sup> Asian Forum  
Fellow Delegates  
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is an honor for me from the Federation of Contractors Association of Nepal (FCAN) to be here to present my country paper. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the Organizers for inviting me.

Japan and Nepal enjoy a common historical, religious and traditional bond. As Lumbini, the birth place of Lord Buddha is located in Nepal, many people from Japan come every year to Nepal to visit and pay homage. Japan and Nepal have also enjoyed cordial relations at people to people level, which is based on the basis of social and cultural similarities. Ekai Kawaguchi , the first recorded Japanese who ever visited Nepal in 1899, is characterized as the founder of such friendly relation between the two countries. Just three years after his visit, the Government of Nepal sent eight Nepali students to Japan in 1902 for studies and this year also marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their visit to Japan. The percentage of Japanese tourist visiting Nepal also forms a considerable number.

Similarly, the contribution of the Japanese Government and the Japanese Private Sectors towards poverty alleviation , sustainable economic development through economic and technical co-operation is of unique importance to Nepal. As one of the major donors, Japan has been extending its official development assistance (ODA) to Nepal in order to help promote the socio- economic development of this country.

In doing so Japan has given priority to five areas, namely :

- Human Resource Development
- Social Sector such as Education, Health and Medical Care
- Basic Economic and Social Projects
- Environmental Conservation and Infrastructure

Japan's ODA to Nepal has made possible many projects . To quote a few :

- Japan has contributed a great deal to preserving Lumbini as a heritage site.
- Construction of Primary School under BPEP 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase
- Construction of Teaching Hospital
- Expansion of Kanti Children's Hospital
- National Tuberculosis Center
- Kathmandu Water Supply facilities Improvement (Where Japan shares ½ of the total water supply in Kathmandu Valley after completion of the ongoing project)
- Banepa – Sindhuli- Bardibas Road Project
- Improvement of intersections in Kathmandu City
- Expansion of Rural Telecommunication Network
- National Radio Broadcasting Project
- Modernization of Tribhuvan International Airport
- River Training Works
- Increase of Food Production
- Debt Relief Measures
- Improvement of Storage facilities of Iodized salt in 6 places
- 9 Bridges in Kathmandu Valley and so on

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After the implementation of the Construction Industry Act 1998, His Majesty's Government of Nepal recognized the construction industry as key means for creating national infrastructure. We, Nepalese contractors are gradually developing our capabilities ; however, we still have to learn a lot in managing our working style and efficiency. In this context, I feel that we have been provided with a conducive atmosphere to discuss and interact with each other on the latest position and pros and cons of our construction industries during this conference. This gives me immense encouragement and hope.

The upliftment of the society in all walks of life and the contribution of the construction industry is a very vital factor. We build Schools, Hospitals, Apartments , Roads etc. for the development of a country which in turn pays back to the society for improving the quality of life.

I would like to inform that our government is in the process of rationalizing the Private sector participation in the infrastructure sector. It is now possible to participate in the development of the country on mutually advantageous terms through , **Build-Own – Operate – Transfer (BOOT)** as well as straight investment in the hydro power and infrastructure sector.

The Federation of Contractor's Association of Nepal (FCAN) established in 1990 is an umbrella organization of all the contractors of Nepal. Till this date, the General Members of our Federation are 70 District Associations out of 75 districts of Nepal.

On behalf of FCAN, I sincerely invite the contractors from the member countries of Asian Forum to invest their expertise through joint ventures with Nepalese contractors. This system will provide us further opportunities to develop the technical and managerial skills of our local contractors.

Nepal also hopes for cooperation and assistance from organizations of the member association of Asian Forum to obtain managerial and technical expertise to enhance its ability to meet the challenges of the future. In partnership , we hope to be able to work together for growth and development in the new dimensions.

Last , but not the least, I once again would like to congratulate and express sincere thanks to the organizing committee of this 2<sup>nd</sup> Asian Forum Conference for extending their warm hospitality to us.