## PRESS RELEASE

The Government of Japan has agreed to provide a grant assistance of 990 million yen (equivalent to NRs.817.7 million) to the Government of Nepal for the execution of the Project for the Improvement of Community Access, under the Japanese grant assistance scheme in Japan's Fiscal Year 2009.

The grant assistance shall be used by the Government of Nepal exclusively for the procurement of products and its shipping-related and transportation services necessary for the construction of bridges in the linking rural roads to the B.P. Koirala Highway (which is also known as Banepa-Sindhuli-Bardibas Road). A total of 35 all-weather-motorable bridges in 13 linking roads will be constructed in Sindhuli, Ramechhap, Kavrepalanchowk, Sindhupalchowk, and Mahottari districts. Through the implementation of this project, it is expected that the local community's access to road will be enhanced significantly and subsequently, their standard of living will also be uplifted. The project will be implemented by the Ministry of Local Development and is expected to be completed by July 2012.

To this effect, the Note of Exchange was signed by Mr. Rameshore Prasad Khanal, Secretary, Ministry of Finance and His Excellency Mr. Tatsuo MIZUNO, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of Japan, on behalf of their respective governments.

The Government of Nepal has expressed its sincere appreciation to the people and the Government of Japan for this assistance and also for their keen interest and continued support in the socio-economic development of Nepal.

Ministry of Finance Singhadurbar, Kathmandu, Nepal <u>March 05, 2010 Tuesday</u> २१ फाल्ग्न, २०६६