

# YOU AND US

*Stories of China and Nepal*



Chief Compiler: Zeng Xuyong



China Intercontinental Press

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*The Prime Minister*

Kathmandu, Nepal

December 01, 2015

When we talk about relation between Nepal and China, there are many aspects to recall our historical ties. It is believed that Chinese monk *Fa Xian's* visit to Nepal as early as 406 AD was a historical landmark. He became the first friendly envoy introducing Nepal to the Chinese people.

Around 620s AD, married to a Tibetan prince during *Lichhavi* period, Nepali princess *Bhrikuti Devi* became instrumental to establish ties between our two countries. *Bhrikuti* is revered as Green Tara in Tibetan iconography for introducing and popularising Buddhism in Tibet and then in China. Further, Nepali people proudly recall famous architectural acumen *Arniko*, who visited China during Yuan Dynasty. He built White Pagoda of the Miaoying Temple, which is considered as a landmark of friendly exchanges between the people of two countries.

This year marks 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic ties between Nepal and China. On this occasion, I hereby send best wishes of Nepali people to the friendly people of Peoples' Republic of China. I congratulate leaders of both the countries for their ability to promote undisputed relationship, mutual trust, respect and understanding.

It gives me an immense pleasure by knowing that The Association of Writers of the Foreign Ministry of China and the Chinese Intercontinental Press is launching a book entitled *You and Us: Stories of China and Nepal*. As mentioned in your communication, I believe, many Nepali and Chinese scholars and personalities of social political life of both countries definitely would have highlighted different aspects of our bilateral relationship in their contribution.

There are many dimensions of our relationship. People of both countries are connected with a thread of Buddhism, which has teaching such as-love; non-violence; compassion and trust alike are the fundamental cardinal principles of human relations. I am happy to link this historical spirit with the principle of *Panchaseel*, the basis of a just and cooperative international relationship, to which both Nepal and China strictly adhere.

Our bilateral ties matters to us for multiple reasons: we share a 1,439-km common border without any border dispute; China is our development partner right from the ancient times when contacts between these two countries were established; China has always been cooperative and has provided moral and material support for the social and economic development of Nepal and China's contribution is significant and growing in areas of trade and investment.

I believe, many writers definitely would have mentioned quite a number of projects which have been built with Chinese assistance in their testimony. I believe, the book would be a significant to the targeted young generation to understand the exemplary friendly relation between our two countries.

Long Live Nepal- China friendship!

KP Sharma Oli

## Preface

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China and Nepal are neighbors at the southern foot of the towering Himalayas closely linking the two countries. Since ancient times, many stories of friendly exchanges have circulated among their peoples. Legend has it that, over two thousand years ago, Manjusri, the Bodhisattva of wisdom, cleaved the mountains to discharge a lake when passing by Nepal, thus creating the beautiful Kathmandu Valley. Faxian, an eminent monk of the Jin Dynasty (265-420), and Xuanzang, of the Tang Dynasty (618-907), made pilgrimages to Lumbini, birthplace of Sakyamuni, to worship the Buddha. During the Tang Dynasty, Nepalese Princess Bhrikuti crossed the mountains and rivers to reach Tibet in order to marry the Tubo (Tibetan) King Songtsen Gampo. During the Yuan Dynasty (1279-1368), a famous Nepalese craftsman, Arniko, travelled to China and took part in the construction of nine Buddhist structures including the White Dagoba in Miaoying Temple in Beijing.

In modern times, the traditional friendship between the two countries continued to further flourish. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Nepal in 1955, bilateral relations have continued to strengthen amid many international and domestic changes. On the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, the two sides have established a lasting comprehensive cooperative partnership, enhanced political trust, increasingly rich pragmatic cooperation and deepening friendship. The two countries have become good cooperative partners which have always given each other firm support in regard to issues concerning core interests.

In April 2015, Nepal suffered a devastating earthquake. Although China was also hit by the disaster, the Chinese



Government and people were the first to lend a helping hand for Nepal's post-disaster reconstruction involving several hundred million U.S. dollars. This disaster further consolidated and deepened the friendship between China and Nepal and wrote a new chapter in this regard.

At present, the Chinese Government is committed to deepening the mutually beneficial cooperation and interconnection with neighboring countries to build a community of common destiny. Nepal is China's important neighbor, given top priority in diplomacy. Under the framework of Nepal's post-disaster reconstruction and the "Belt and Road Initiative," we will further deepen cooperation with Nepal and share the development opportunities to bring more benefits to the two peoples. I believe that with joint efforts the Sino-Nepalese relations will surely have a brighter future.

On the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Nepal, China Intercontinental Press and the Diplomatic Pen-club MFA are jointly publishing the book *Stories of China and Nepal*, which is a really timely act.

This is of great significance for enhancing Sino-Nepalese friendship. Former ambassador Zeng Xuyong acts as the editor-in-chief of this book, and personages from all walks of life including former Nepalese Prime Minister Kirti Nidhi Bista and other Nepalese politicians, senior Chinese diplomats with experience of working in Nepal, and those in the media, economy, trade and academic research fields of both countries, are contributors, fully reflecting the width and depth of Sino-Nepalese friendship. They recall and praise the profound friendship between the two peoples in combination with their sincere feelings and personal experiences. I am sure that readers in the two countries,

the young generation in particular, will gain much knowledge on the historical context for Sino-Nepalese friendship typical of good neighbors engaged in mutually beneficial cooperation and gain a deep understanding of the profound meaning of the Sino-Nepalese community of common destiny, and will strive to be the inheritors and builders of Sino-Nepalese friendship so as to promote an even stronger comprehensive cooperative partnership.

*Wang Yi*

*Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China*

*September 2015*

*Beijing*

## Message

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The association with the leaders and people of China, both in my official as well as unofficial capacities, have remained fruitful and productive over the past fifty years. I have visited different parts of China at different time periods and I have learnt that the Chinese people have great respect and abundance of love for their Nepali brothers and sisters. Through thick and thin, the Chinese leaders were ever ready to come to Nepal's help. Nepal China relations, firmly embedded into the five principles of peaceful coexistence, have remained cordial, harmonious and progressive. Our excellent relations remained as firm as Mount Everest despite major changes in systems and modes of governance in our respective countries. Viewed from this perspective I remain confident that the Nepal-China relations can take only one course – that of further development, enhanced understanding and immense goodwill. I am pleased to note that the Diamond Jubilee celebrations are being organized both in China and Nepal through various channels, some of the important ones being recounting of memorable events and writing of memories of persons who have been instrumental in taking Nepal-China relations to its present height. On this occasion I wish to thank the leaders and people of both countries for their grand vision which gave a new meaning to neighborly relations. My appreciations are also due to Ambassador Zeng Xuyong and his brilliant team for bringing out this wonderful picturesque publication which will refresh our memories for a long time to come.

*Kirti Nidhi Bista*  
*Former Prime Minister of Nepal*



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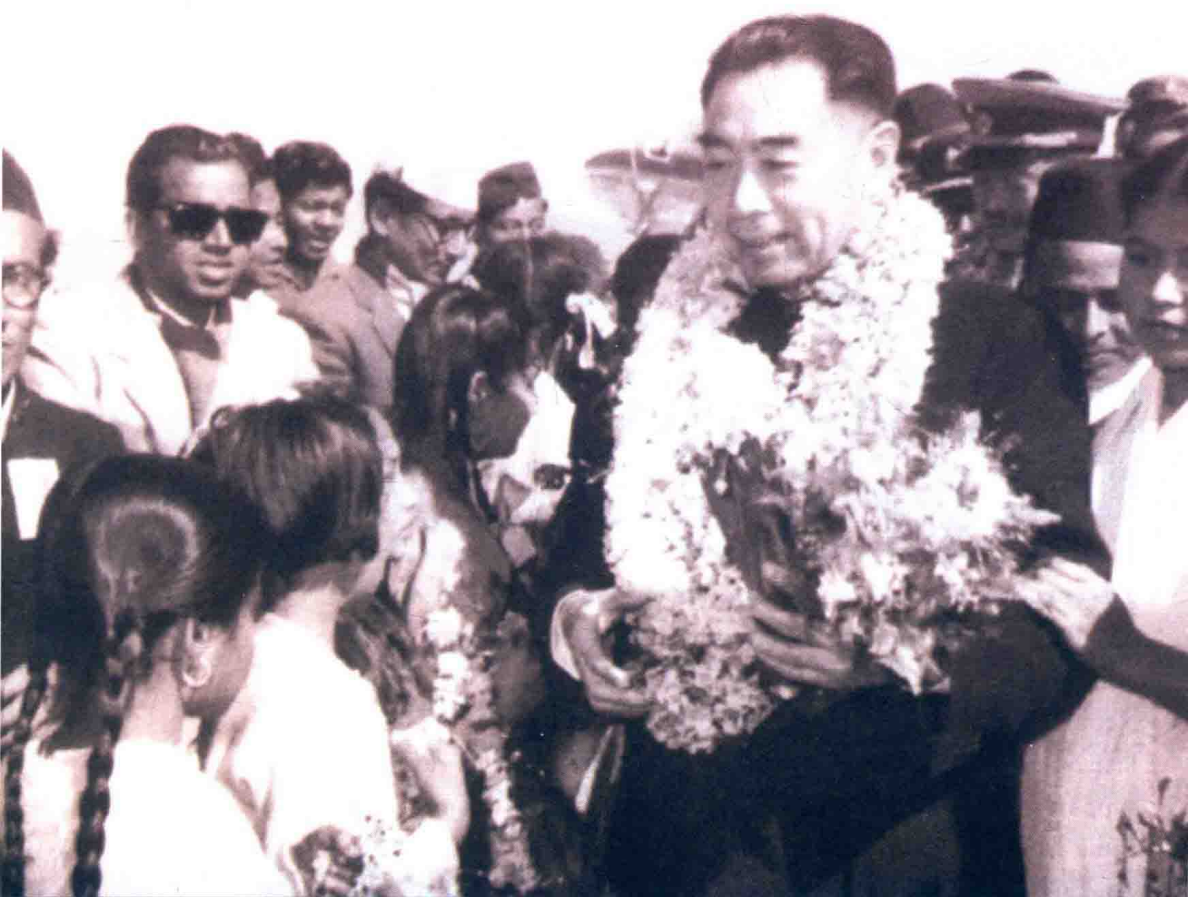
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# Friendship

**Zeng Xuyong:** Sino-Nepalese Friendship Carefully Cultivated by Leaders of Older Generation

**Kirti Nidhi Bista:** China Has Always Been a Good Friend to Nepal at the Times of Need

**Yang Gongsu:** Ambassador to Nepal: Friendship Envoy

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**Binod P. Bista:** Nepal and China: Neighborly Relations par Excellence

# Sino-Nepalese Friendship Carefully Cultivated by Leaders of Older Generation

Zeng Xuyong

(Former Chinese Ambassador to Nepal and Kuwait)

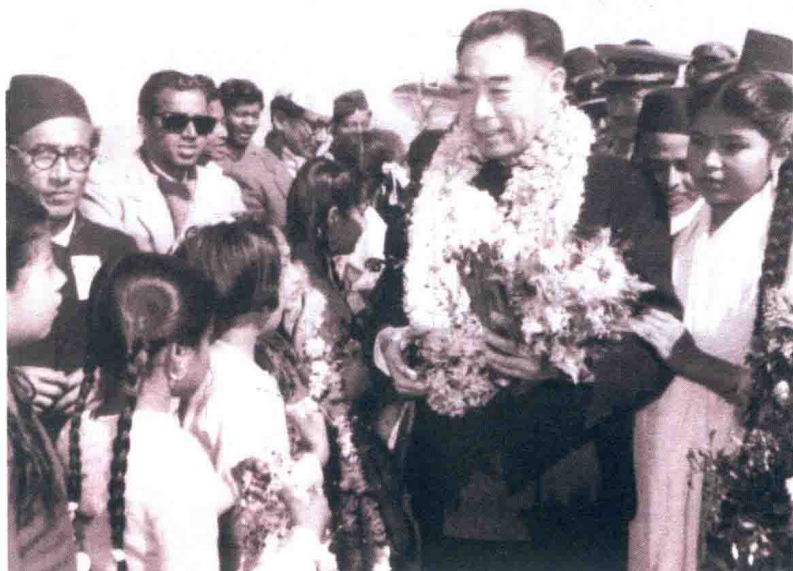
August 1, 2015 marked the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formal establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Nepal. Being close neighbors with connecting mountain ranges and rivers, the two countries have forged a profound friendship over time. During the past 60 years, no matter what the changes in the international situation and their domestic circumstances, bilateral relations have maintained stable development, and mutually beneficial cooperation has expanded with fruitful results. The two countries have set an example for close neighborly, peaceful coexistence and mutually beneficial cooperation between a large country and a small one. The smooth development of Sino-Nepalese relations benefit from close adherence to the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. The two countries respect, support and treat each other equally, and the good results also come from the great attention and careful cultivation of several generations of national leaders. Here, I would like to recall several examples in this regard.

## Chairman Mao Gives Final Verdict to Solve Issues Regarding the Sino-Nepalese Boundary

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations, China and Nepal have always taken the five principles confirmed in the Joint Communiqué of the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Kingdom of Nepal on the Establishment of Normal Diplomatic Relations as the basis for ensuring long term steady development of bilateral friendly relations. In 1956, Premier Zhou Enlai paid an official goodwill visit to Nepal, the first such visit after the founding of the PRC. In order to strengthen their



Premier Zhou Enlai paid  
a visit to Nepal in 1957.



cooperation, the two sides signed an agreement on economic aid. Under the direct leadership of Premier Zhou, the Chinese delegation, through friendly consultations, signed the Agreement to Maintain the Friendly Relations Between the People's Republic of China and the Kingdom of Nepal and on Trade and Intercourse Between the Tibet Region of China and Nepal, placing bilateral relations on a friendly equal footing and dealing with issues concerning trade and pilgrimage between Tibet and Nepal. In March 1960, Nepalese Prime Minister Bishweshwar Prasad Koirala, at the invitation of Premier Zhou, visited China. The two sides signed an agreement on boundary delineation and a new agreement on economic aid. Responding to Nepal's request, the Chinese side agreed to provide a non-reimbursable assistance of 100 million Indian rupees over three years without any political conditions. In April, Premier Zhou Enlai visited Nepal again and signed the Treaty of Peace and Friendship Between the People's Republic of China and the Kingdom of Nepal with his Nepalese counterpart.

The two sides established a Joint Boundary Committee to take charge of negotiations to solve the specific problems regarding



Premier Zhou entertained  
Nepalese Prime Minister  
Bishweshwar Prasad  
Koirala in March 1960.

delineation of their border, including survey, demarcation, setting up boundary markers and drafting the Boundary Treaty Between the People's Republic of China and the Kingdom of Nepal. Zhang Shijie, Chinese chief representative on that committee, became the first Chinese resident ambassador to Nepal. When I worked in the Chinese embassy in Nepal in 1965, he told us: "In the border negotiations between China and Nepal, there are some differences and even disputes over the eastern and western sections of the border, but, on the principle of equality, mutual benefit, friendship and compromise, the two sides have agreed to make adjustment and reached a consensus through friendly negotiations." The biggest issue was over Mount Qomolangma (also known in Nepal as Sagarmatha). It is the highest peak in the world, and the two peoples have long cherished deep feelings towards it. However, the Sino-Nepalese Joint Border Committee had difficulty to reach a consensus on where the border should lie. This was of concern for both Nepal and the international community. Premier Zhou told Prime Minister Koirala: "The fact that Mt. Qomolangma is in our territory is well-founded and to say the peak belongs to Nepal is unfounded. It is

well known that the peak involves the national feelings of China; however, we should also give consideration to the national feelings of Nepal.” When receiving Prime Minister Koirala, Chairman Mao said: “If this peak is totally given to you, we can’t accept it emotionally, and vice versa. So, we can divide it between us.” He also suggested the peak be renamed the “Sino-Nepalese Friendship Peak.” Given the national feelings of the two peoples and based on the wider interests of Sino-Nepalese friendship, Chairman Mao personally decided to let the boundary line pass through the summit of Mount Qomolangma so that China and Nepal could have an equal share. This proposal received a positive response from the Nepalese leaders.

On October 5, 1961, Nepalese King Mahendra visited China and formally signed the Boundary Treaty Between the People’s Republic of China and the Kingdom of Nepal with President Liu Shaoqi in Beijing, thus determining the entire border line from west to east. Based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, in the spirit of fairness, rationality and mutual understanding and accommodation and through friendly consultations, the two sides were able to resolve the border issue smoothly and comprehensively and were satisfied with the result. The formal demarcation of the border between the two countries is a milestone for further development of the bilateral friendly relations. Since then, the Sino-Nepalese boundary has become a boundary of peace and friendship, a bond closely linking the two countries.

### An Important Conversation between Chairman Mao and Nepalese Guests

In 1960, in accordance with Premier Zhou’s instructions, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs selected a group of fresh graduates and sent them to Tibet to learn the Nepalese language. I was one of the first group to go there. Since then, I have forged an indissoluble bond with Nepal for over half a century. In November 1963, when I was still involved with language study, I was transferred to Beijing





Premier Zhou Enlai and Vice Premier Chen Yi (third, left) with Nepalese Prime Minister Bishweshwar Prasad Koirala (fourth, left) by a lake in Pokhara during their visit to Nepal in April 1960.

to receive the Delegation of the National Panchayat (Parliament) of Nepal led by Bishva Bandu Thapa. The National Panchayat (Parliament) is equivalent to the National People's Congress of China, so the latter's Chairman Zhu De hosted a banquet for the visitors. English was mostly used in communications, but as some councilors didn't understand that language I served as an interpreter for them. They visited the Great Wall, the Forbidden City and other important places of historic interest and scenic beauty, greatly widening their horizons. They said China was really worthy of the title of an ancient oriental civilization. The wide Tian'anmen Square and Chang'an Avenue and the magnificent Great Hall of the People and other buildings demonstrated China's position as a large country and the modern style of its capital.

Our central leadership attached great importance to this first visit by a delegation of the Nepalese National Panchayat. President Liu Shaoqi and Premier Zhou Enlai met the delegation in the Great Hall of the People respectively. The two leaders expounded