

CHINADAILY

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Scaling new heights

Nepal is poised for a new era of economic development, with China a key source of investment and tourism

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Cooperation between Nepal and China is set to be further strengthened as both countries are not only neighbors but also have deep-rooted relations in many aspects.

"Nepal and China ... are very close, not only geographically, but historically, culturally, politically, socially and economically," Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli told *China Daily Asia Weekly* in January, the month before taking office for the second time.

"From ancient times, and in the modern times, our people and our governments have tried and contributed to develop our friendly ties (with China)," said Oli, adding that mutual

trust and respect serve as the basis for the two countries' friendship.

Sharing a 1,414-km-long border, the two countries officially established diplomatic relations in 1955.

Oli praised China's respect for Nepal's sovereignty and independence while upholding the principle of non-interference in its internal affairs. "Nepal also understands the situation and concerns of China, so Nepal is always clear and open about the one-China policy," he said.

The landlocked Himalayan country has gone through many political changes and has had 11 prime ministers since 2006. After ending its 239-year-old monarchy in 2008, Nepal is now transitioning into a federal state based on the new national constitution adopted in 2015.

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