Marwah: Mr. Madan Regmi is the founding chairman of the China Study Center, Nepal (CSC-Nepal). The first central level center was established in 1999 to disseminate information about China with a focus on Nepal – China relations. The Center has also forged linkages and contacts with several organizations in China including China Association for International Friendly Contact (CAIFC), China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), Tibet Academy of Social Sciences (TASS) and other institutions. Mr. Regmi himself is a writer and poet who believe that cultural affinities can help enhance mutual understanding and collaborations. Sir, we know that you had taken the initiative of establishing an exclusive China Study Center in Nepal almost a decade or so back, could you please introduce yourself so that we could know more about your background?

Marwah: Sir, first of all please introduce yourself.

Regmi: I am an ordinary person. I was a headmaster of a high school and also of a middle school. I was a journalist and I wrote articles on China and South Asian nations. I wrote poetry for many years. I was also a party cadre when I was very young. Then I developed an interest in reading Chinese poems. Possibly, these poems are some of the oldest in the world; these are some 3400 years old. Personally, I was attracted to China because of so many factors. China is our neighbor with whom we share 1440 km-long border. We need to know about China adequately and correctly so I have been devoting to know about China since over decades and trying to disseminate it among our people. My main objective here is to know China for Nepal’s national interest and to bring Nepalese and Chinese people closer.

Marwah: What is so special about Nepal-China relations, in your opinion?

Regmi: We have always had good relations with China. Relation between the people of Nepal and China dates back to more than two thousand years. These very old relations are time tested and have proven themselves to be permanent. The common mountains and rivers are manifestations of the age-old natural links between the two countries.

The bilateral ties, ranging from the intimate cultural, historical, social and spiritual links, have been continuously nurtured and promoted by Buddhism, which itself was expounded by Shakyamuni Gautam Buddha, who was born in 623 B.C. in Lumbini, a township in Rupendehi district of Nepal. Master Buddhhabhadra (Fótuó-bátóluó or Chwesian 359-429 A.D.), Princess Bhrikuti (Khir-btsun 617-649 A.D.), Architect Arniko (A-ni-ka 1245-1306 A.D.) from Nepal; and Wenshu (Manjushri), Master Monks Fa Xian (360-430 A.D.) and Xuan Zang (602-664 A.D.) and Tibetan King Sron-btsan Gampo
(617-649 A.D.) from China have all contributed in the dissemination of Nepal’s Buddhist spiritualism throughout China. The Nepalese and Chinese people have blood ties which Zhou Enlai also referred during his visit to Nepal (February 25th to 28th 1957). Our relation is very unique. Many people may not know that most of the Nepalese who came from the Caucasus mountain range, settled in western China for quite a long time. Then they moved from Xinjiang through Kashgar (Kashi) to this side of the Himalayas. I mentioned of the blood ties between Nepalese and the Chinese people. We find many communities migrating from China to Nepal.

The specialty about Nepal-China relation is that our relation is based on trust and understanding based on Panchasheel. China never interferes in our internal policy, fully respects our sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. This doesn’t mean that we don’t have any grievances with China but it will not undermine our relationship. We have to go together. Our bilateral relation is unbreakable and is permanent.

**Marwah: When was your first visit to China?**

**Regmi:** My first visit to China was in 1991. As a journalist I went there at the invitation of Wen Huibao, a distinguished daily of China. Since then I have been visiting China frequently at the invitation of different individuals and organizations. Our first counterpart CAIFC and second counterpart CICIR and our CSC have an agreement to exchange visits every alternate year.

**Marwah: Why did you feel the need to start a China Study Center?**

**Regmi:** Because it is a must. To know about China it is imperative for us but we did not have any dedicated functional organization on China study until we started China Study Center in 1999. Our Center is not a big organization. We manage the CSC from our own resources. However, we (CSC) were the first to organize a seminar on China and SAARC in 2002. Scholars from China and many of the South Asian countries participated in the seminar. I remember the first secretary general of SAARC Abu Hassan, Niaz Naik, former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, Yadav Kanta Silwal former Secretary General of SAARC, Prof. Ma Jiali from China presented papers in the seminar. I remember there was a learned Prof. from Sri Lanka but Prof. Manoranjan Mohanti, Institute of Chinese Studies in Delhi cancelled his participation in the eleventh hour because of a serious family problem. But he sent a paper.

It is very essential to have closer contact between South Asia and China. It is encouraging that China is trying its best to have good relations with all the nations of South Asia. This China Study Center of Nepal is giving us opportunities to know more about China and to help promote our bilateral relation from the people to people level. Delegations from China including CICIR, CAIFC and other organizations visit us regularly. Even though our Center does not have enough financial resources, we try our best to manage hosting delegations from different organizations in China and have policy dialogue with them. There is a lot of interest in China studies and though we have one main central level China Study Center, it is the premier China-focused policy organization in the country. It
has some branches as well. We are trying our best in our own modest way to keep our center smart and increasingly relevant.

**Marwah: Where are these branches located?**

**Regmi:** We have some branches in the hill area and some branches in the Terai area as well. However, these branches which came into being at the initiative of the local people themselves come and go as the local people cannot sustain it. Besides, there are other problems too. But I am more than certain that this subject of study on China will be increasingly pivotal for the Nepalese people in the coming days. Even now people’s interest on China is growing. There is lot of attraction to read the Chinese language. They know more than ever before that China is not only our neighbor but also the second largest economy of the world, permanent member of the Security Council, biggest investor and contributor in the third world. Nepalese people are also aware than Chinese policy is to strengthen Nepal’s sovereignty and also to provide a fillip to Nepal’s development, peace and stability.

**Marwah: What is the mission of CSC of Nepal so far as Nepal-China relations are concerned?**

**Regmi:** The unbroken cultivation of ancient bilateral relations between China and Nepal. CSC believes that only candid and firm understanding leads to the advancement of peaceful and prosperous inter-people and inter-state cooperation. The mission of CSC-Nepal is consequently to promote imaginatively knowledge-based, multi-dimensional policy dialogue and research activities on China, and more specifically between China and Nepal. It aims at the study of China in general and Nepal-China relations at the people-to-people level in particular.

In fact, the work of CSC-Nepal is academically and professionally oriented with the rigor and sophistication of public or cultural diplomacy. It serves as a common forum for all intellectuals, irrespective of color, creed, religion, ethnicity, gender and location, who abide by the provisions of the CSC-Nepal constitution. CSC friends are concerned with and interested in China, value China-Nepal relations and the integration of Nepal with Chinese modernization and reform processes that have transcended various regions of Asia. The main objective of CSC-Nepal, therefore, is to plan and execute activities to maintain, strengthen, consolidate and advance not only a knowledge-based China outlook in Nepal but also promote excellent neighborly relations between the peoples of Nepal and China.
Marwah: What are the operational objectives of CSC-Nepal, can you please elaborate it?

Regmi: The operational objectives of CSC-Nepal includes (a) to study and research historical, geographical, religious, cultural, social, external, environmental, touristic, political, economic and commercial relations of China and thereby to disseminate them in a coherent, timely and orderly fashion; (b) to arrange the exchange of fact-finding, research and study visits between the two countries that work as a major tool for developing and forging strategic multi-dimensional communication to enhance bilateral understanding and cooperation; and (c) to help consolidate and advance friendly neighborly relations between the two countries by conducting bilateral, regional, and international policy dialogue, discussions, conferences, and seminars within the wider framework of China affairs and specifically within the context of Nepal-China relations.

Marwah: What about the recent visit of the Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao to Nepal?

Regmi: At the Governmental level Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao was in Nepal recently (14 January 2012) for a brief half-day visit. He was here for a four hour official visit aimed at forging strategic ties. This was a hallmark visit of immense importance at a critical time when Nepal is passing through a historical political transition. According to Prime Minister Bhattarai, the Chinese Premier was of the opinion for Nepal's balanced relations with both of Nepal neighbors-India and China.

Nepal is the only country that every Chinese Premier has visited. The continuity was accomplished in succession since the very foundation of the People’s Republic of China in 1949, beginning with the visit of the first Premier Zhou Enlai to the current Premier Wen Jiabao. This signifies the importance attached to Nepal-China relations by high Chinese leadership. We still cherish with warm memory the visit by paramount leader, Deng Xiaoping to Nepal in 1978. Nepal was his one and the only as well as the first South Asian country in his itinerary to visit just after the opening of China to the outside world and initiation of China’s modernization drive. This gave a singular honor and pride to all Nepalese people as a whole. Other important visits were by the Chinese President Li Xiannian in 1984 and President Jiang Zemin in 1996.

Marwah: In your opinion, how significant was Wen Jiabao’s visit to Nepal for the prospects of Nepal-China relations?

Regmi: Though Premier Wen's visit was of short duration, it was fruitful, substantive and time-effective. It has laid a solid edifice to further enhance the level of existing bilateral relations to a strategic and comprehensive new height. It has brought in focus many important facets of bilateral relations in the areas of security, cooperation and development. Such issues are the concerns of both the countries as they provide a permanent and solid footing to the bilateral relations. The visit was most significant as it marked the signing of eight important agreements of mutual concerns, that include Agreement on Cultural Cooperation; Agreement on Trans-frontier pasturing by border inhabitants; Memorandum of Understanding on operationalization of loan mechanism;
Agreement on economic and technical cooperation; Agreement on the management of ports at Nepal-China border areas; Exchanges of notes on Chinese assistance in providing equipment for Ministry of Home Affairs; and Exchanges of notes on Chinese assistance in building Armed Police Force Academy.

**Marwah:** The year 2012 is marked as Nepal-China year of friendly exchanges. In that sense, how can Nepal-China relations be portrayed?

**Regmi:** The joint statement released at the end of Premier Wen Jiabao’s visit emphasized that the Nepal-China relationship is characterized by equality, harmony, co-existence, ever lasting friendship and comprehensive cooperation. Both sides decided to further promote the Nepal-China relations on the basis of five principles of peaceful-coexistence. The joint statement also congratulated the official opening of the second road link between Nepal and China, Syafrubesi-Rasuwa Gadhi Road signed in 2001 May 13 when Chinese premier Zhu Rongji visited Nepal at the invitation of the then Nepalese Prime Minister G P Koirala, after 39 years of the first highway agreement signed in Beijing during King Mahendra’s visit to China.

It is also important to keep in mind that the visit of Premier Wen Jiabao to Nepal was an important confirmation of the continuity of visits by each and every Prime Minister of China. The Chinese side expressed hope that Nepal’s successful conclusion of the peace process and the completion of drafting of the constitution, as well as Beijing’s readiness to help Nepal in its socio-economic development will go a long way in further cementing the close and good neighborly relations between the two countries.

The most important matter, in entirety, is that both sides are making efforts in nurturing their long existing relations by understanding each other’s genuine concerns and aspirations. The 21st century advances in science and technology and so communication technology has given a new meaning to Nepal-China geopolitical ties. The marking of 2012 as Nepal-China Year of Friendship Exchanges just promotes this 'new meaning' in our bilateral ties.

**Marwah:** Please tell us about the visit of institutional delegation from China at your China Study Center.

**Regmi:** As I have mentioned earlier, we do exchange visits of delegations with our two Chinese counterparts CAIFC and CICIR and we also arrange the visit of delegations of different nature and groups to China and receive delegations from different institutions of China. I will just try to mention visits that took place around last year (2011.) At the invitation of China study Center, a combined delegation of Shenzhen Municipal Congress and Shenzhen People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries visited Kathmandu on 10 December 2011 for a four-day visit. This eight-member delegation was led by Mr. Zhou Guangming Vice-Chairman, the Standing Committee of Shenzhen Municipal Congress. This Chinese delegation was also received by the Executive head of the Kathmandu Metropolitan, and had a meeting with the high officials of the Government. All this shows the interest of both China and Nepal in each other.
Marwah: Is there any other visit of institutional delegation from China at the China Study Center?

Regmi: Yes. The delegation from the China Center for Contemporary World Studies (CCCWS) led by Mr. Chen Jin, Vice Director of the Party Literature Research Center of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee paid a friendly visit to Nepal from July 14 to 17, 2011 at the invitation of the China Study Center. During the sojourn the CCCWS delegation attended a talk programme organized by the China Study Center. The participants in the programme included the elites of different spheres including leaders of the political parties, members of the Constitution Assembly, Nepalese diplomats, scholars and academic as well as media representatives. In the programme the main speaker was the leader of the delegation Mr. Chen Jin who delivered a key note speech highlighting the achievement of the Communist Party of China in the span of ninety years and also dwelt on the challenges which the PRC is facing. I myself said that the peaceful rise of China has played a significant role for the creation of a peaceful and harmonious world order and that it has greatly enhanced the prospect of our bilateral cooperation. Mr. Wang Jiarui, Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee and the Honorary President of the CCCWS Council, who had also visited CSC, said that “the CCCWS has been founded at a time when the global perception on China and on the Communist Party of China is going through historic change.”

Another delegation from the Beijing based CICIR led by Prof. Hu Shisheng, Director of Institute of South & Southeast Asian and Oceania Studies of CICIR, paid a friendly visit to Nepal at the invitation of the China Study Center from July 26 to August 1, 2011. Other members of the delegation were Dr. (Ms) Huang Jing, researcher of Institute of European Studies, Dr. Chen Wenxin, researcher of Institute of American Studies, Dr. Wang Shida, researcher of Institute of South & Southeast Asian and Oceania Studies of CICIR. During their stay in Nepal, the members of the visiting delegation had important meetings with the high officials of the Government, scholars and experts of various spheres.

Another delegation from China Association for International Friendly Contact (CAIFC) led by its Deputy Secretary-General Mr. Liu Jian visited Nepal from June 4 to June 9, 2010 at the invitation of the China Study Center (CSC). The delegation was received by CSC-Nepal General Secretary Dr. Upendra Gautam. Other members of the CAIFC delegation included Dr. Wang Wei, Director, Center of South Asian Studies, CAIFC, Mr. Li Qiang, Scholar, Center for Peace and Development Studies, CAIFC and Mr. Xu Yang, Scholar, CAIFC. During their stay in Kathmandu the delegation exchanged views, among others, with Mr. Krishna Bahadur Mahara, Foreign Department Chief of UCPN (Maoist), Nepali Congress Acting President Mr. Sushil Koirala and CPN (UML) Foreign Department Chief Mr. Khadga Prasad Oli.
Recently from 30 December 2011 to 4 January 2012, a five-member delegation from China Federation of Literary and Art Circles (CFLAC), led by its Vice President, Mr. Feng Yuan paid a week-long visit to Nepal at the invitation of Nepal Academy. The delegation was warmly welcomed and received by various literary and art circles of Nepal. The delegation also had very cordial meeting with the officials of China Study Center that included prominent writers, poets and members of arts and culture of Nepal. Both sides were of the view that concrete programmes had to be made in order to enhance the relations in the field of culture and arts between our two countries. They decided to make efforts for more exchanges of visits of artists and literary figures and organization of regular cultural activities between the two countries. They also agreed to pursue consultation in future for further promotion of bilateral cultural and artistic relations between them.

Marwah: Has CSC-Nepal signed any agreement on cooperation with the institutions in China?

Regmi: Yes, CSC-Nepal and TASS of China signed an agreement specifying provisions for academic cooperation between the two organizations on 15 December 2011. The simple signing ceremony took place at the CSC central office in Kathmandu. A visiting 3-member delegation of TASS led by its Vice-president Prof. Sun Yong and myself of CSC signed the agreement on behalf of respective institutions. This was the first such agreement signed by CSC with the neighboring regional social science academy of China. Earlier, CSC had signed agreement of mutual cooperation with the state-level China Association for International Friendly Contact (CAIFC) and the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR).

Marwah: What about the return visit of delegation from the CSC-Nepal?

Regmi: A four-member delegation of the China Study Center (CSC-Nepal) led by me visited China from 12 September 2010 to 19 September 2010 at the invitation of China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR). During its sojourn in China the CSC delegation attended bilateral workshop at CICIR and exchanged views on bilateral, regional and international issues. The delegation called on a highly placed official of International Department of Central Committee of CPC and with the officials of its another counterpart organization, China Association for International Friendly Contact (CAIFC), and other scholars and journalists. After its program in Beijing, the CSC delegation went to Shanghai and observed the Shanghai World Industrial Expo 2010 where the Nepal Pavilion was a star attraction. The Nepal pavilion owned the heart of the visitors by introducing them the rich cultural heritage of Nepal, the birth place of Shakyamuni Gautam Buddha. The CSC delegation also exchanged views with the Vice-President and scholars of Shanghai Institute of International Studies.

Another delegation of the China Study Center (CSC) paid a friendly visit to China at the invitation of China Association for International Friendly Contact (CAIFC) from 16 to 26 June 2011. The CSC delegation which was led by me comprised of CSC Vice Chairman,
Sundar Nath Bhattarai, who is also the President of the Association of Former Career Ambassadors of Nepal (AFCAN); Dr. Upendra Gautam, General Secretary, Prof. Ganga Prasad Uprety, Treasurer of CSC, also the Vice Chancellor of Nepal Academy and other two CSC members Rajiv Regmi, engineer entrepreneur and Deepa Pradhan, education management specialist and Chinese language expert. During its stay in China, the delegation visited Beijing, Dalian and Langzou, and had important meetings and dialogues with high officials of the CPC International Department, the Government and the Chinese think tanks. The meetings and dialogues concentrated on strategic and long term approach to China-Nepal ties.

Significantly, a 10-member students' youth delegation visited China in the second half of September 2011. The delegation consisted of students of undergraduate programmes and the acting campus chief of Siddhartha Vanasthali Institute, Kathmandu. The delegation visited Guanzhou, Changsha, Shanghai, Beijing and Xian and received first hand information and experience about China's economic, technological, commercial, cultural and educational development. Before the delegation's departure to China, it was provided orientation about China and Nepal-China relations by the experts and scholars of China Study Center. This study visit was sponsored by China Association for International Friendly Contact (CAIFC) in partnership with China Study Center (CSC). Nepal-China Friendship Youth Association provided support in the program planning.

**Marwah:** Since CSC-Nepal has organized a seminar on Nepal-China Relations, what significance does it have for the strengthening of bilateral ties?

**Regmi:** China Study Center organized a seminar (November 2011) on Nepal-China relations, which was participated by foreign policy experts, academia and Chinese diplomats, senior political leaders and a three member delegation from China Institute of International Studies (CIIS) led by its Vice-president Mr. Dong Manyuan. A comprehensive paper entitled “Nepal-China Relations: A South Asian Perspective” was presented by Prof. Lok Raj Baral, a foreign affairs scholar and former ambassador to the Republic of India. Another research based and analytical paper presented in the seminar was by Dr. Bama Dev Sigdel which was entitled “China-Africa Economic Relations: Lesson to Developing Countries, Including Nepal”. Both the papers dealt extensively with historical perspective of Nepal-China relations and future prospects of great advantages which Nepal can accrue from the growing economic strength of the People's Republic of China. Chinese head of the delegation Mr. Dong was of the opinion that China attached great importance to Nepal-China relations and would continue to increase assistance for Nepal's economic development. Stressing on the significance of Nepal-China relations Mr. Dong said, “Nepal-China relations are solid like the Himalayas and higher than Mt. Everest.”

Dr. Mohan Lohani, who was coordinator of the seminar from China Study Center highlighted the social, cultural and economic ties between Nepal and China while summarizing the main points emphasized by the paper presenters.

**Marwah:** We have heard that the Jhapa Chapter of China Study Center which was opened in 2009, has been doing good work. What is your opinion?
Regmi: The Jhapa Chapter of China Study Center was inaugurated by the Chinese Ambassador Mr. Qiu Guohong on October 16, 2009 in Birtamod, Jhapa in eastern Nepal amidst rousing welcome by the local people. While inaugurating the chapter, the Chinese Ambassador emphasized on the need to enhance China-Nepal relations and reiterated China's pledge to support Nepal's sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and development. I had distributed the certificates of membership of the officials and executive members of Jhapa Chapter. As I said on that occasion, Nepal-China relation is based on Panchsheel and has bright future. However, I condemn the efforts of some foreign and local media to tarnish the image of China Study Center. The Center will not succumb to any such blackmail as they are baseless and malicious in motivation. It is really encouraging for us that Jhapa Chapter of the CSC-Nepal has been trying to do good work for promoting bilateral ties.

Marwah: What about the publications of CSC-Nepal?

Regmi: To mention some of them which I remember right now. China Study Center published a special issue of its periodical Friendship dedicated to the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. Prof. Bishweshor Man Shrestha and Dr. Upendra Gautam are Editor-in-Chief and Consultant Editor of the Periodical respectively. The Journal opens with the text of speech delivered by President Hu Jintao of the People's Republic of China on October 1, 2009. It also contains message of Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal, Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala, Former Prime Minister and Chairman of Nepali Congress; Mr. Puspa Kamal Dahal Former Prime Minister and Chairman of Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist); Mr. Jhalanath Khanal, Chairman, Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist); Mr. Kirtinidhi Bista, Former Prime Minister of Nepal; Mr. Qiu Guohong, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Nepal; Mr. Madan Regmi, Chairman of the China Study Center; Prof. Mohan Prasad Lohani, former Ambassador of Nepal to Bangladesh and Deputy Permanent Representative of Nepal to UN; Mr. Rajan Bhattarai, Foreign Affairs Advisor to Prime Minister of Nepal; Mr. Tika Jung Thapa, President, Nepal Council of World Affairs; Mr. Krishna Silwal, China Affairs expert and CSC Resident Advisor in Beijing; Mr. Y. B. Thapa, Former Member of National Planning Commission of Nepal; Dr. Upendra Gautam, General Secretary, China Study Center and Prof. Bishweshor Man Shrestha, Vice Chairman, China Study Center.

China Study Center has also come out with a Journal of International Affairs in 2009. The Chief Editor of the Journal is Dr. Mohan Lohani. The contents of the journal are in line with the CSC’s policy to give priority to multi-faceted China related studies to further promote and consolidate age-old relations between China and countries of South Asia. Any reader of the journal will get analytical and critical insight into to the current and contemporary world affairs. The articles published in the first issue of the Journal includes “Obama's Presidency: can it bring a real Change?” which was contributed by me; “The Nepali Post-conflict: Prospects for Conflict Transformation and Democratic Consolidation” by Dr. Saubhagya Shah; “Nepal: Sandwiched Between Three Boulders” by Prof. Dr. Sadmukh Thapa; “The Role of Infrastructure in China-SAARC Relations:
Moving Toward a Partnership of Common Prosperity” by Bhaskar Koirala; “China and Nepal face new cold war in the region” by Dr. Upendra Gautam; “Nepal-India Relations in post-April 2006 days” by Prof. Ram Kumar Dahal, and “SAARC: Challenges and Prospects”, by Dr. Mohan P. Lohani.

In addition, China Study Center (CSC-Nepal) formally launched a book on ”The Life of Nepalese Buddhist Master Buddhabhadra” by renowned Nepali Buddhist scholar Prof. Min Bahadur Shakya. The launching of the book by Qiu Guohong, Chinese Ambassador to Nepal on 6 June 2009 marked the sixteenth hundred anniversary (409-2009 CE.) of Buddhabhadra’s (Fótuó-bátuóluó or Chwesian in Chinese) arrival in China and 10th anniversary of the establishment of CSC-Nepal (1999-2009) in Kathmandu. However, the fact remains that launching of the book was not an isolated event of significance of CSC-Nepal pertaining to research in Buddhism, the strongest cultural-historical foundation of Nepal-China relations dating back to more than two thousand years. In CSC's program priorities, research on Buddhism is at the top priority because Buddhism, a common heritage of Nepal and China, has provided the most enduring basis to China-Nepal relations even in these years of heightened instability, new Cold War machinations and global economic and security disorders.

Marwah: Anything more you would like to add to your comments on Nepal-China relations?

Regmi: We have to work together in good faith to achieve the noble objective of bringing South Asia and China closer. For it, no South Asian country should try to be the stumbling block. Nepal-China relation needs to be very strong. But there is not much modern connectivity between our two countries. We want to build more highways that will link Nepal and China. We are anxiously waiting to see the extension of the China Railway network up to our border. As far as I have read, China plans to extend its railway network in the border points of three South Asian countries and Nepal is one of it. Such a constructive planning eventually will be good for the entire South Asia.

The next point which I want to raise here is that if China is going to invest in Nepal’s hydro project or any other projects, other South Asian nations should know that it is going to be beneficial for entire South Asian region itself.

The last point which I want to raise here is that Nepal-China relation is an exemplary one and China which is always ready to support Nepal wants to maintain best relation with South Asian nations and make SAARC a successful regional organization. So why not to forge harmonious relation among we South Asian nations and work with China collectively and also bilaterally?

I would also like to share with you the decision we took unanimously at the CSC-Nepal on strengthening Nepal-China relations. One such event took place on 7 February 2009 when CSC-Nepal organized its 7th General Assembly meeting in Kathmandu. The meeting concluded that the Center should take initiatives to make Chinese people aware of the fact that Nepal is the birthplace of Shakyamuni Gautam Buddha and that Nepal has substantially contributed in the making of Buddhism, art and architecture of China. The assembly also proposed for making special efforts to promote bilateral culture and
tourism, and seek economic collaboration from China to tackle the impact of global economic recession on Nepal. I mean to say that not only cultural collaboration but also the economic collaboration will help develop Nepal-China relations in the best interests of our two countries. Contextually, I will like to quote a Chinese saying here, "Ivory will not grow in the mouth of a jackal."

Thank you very much for the interview.