

(続紙 1)

京都大学	博士 (地域研究)	氏名	THAPA SHARMILA
論文題目	Soft and Hard Power in Japan-Nepal Relations: A Case Study of the Agent-Level Approach (日本-ネパール関係におけるソフトパワーとハードパワー —行為主体ごとの事例研究—)		
(論文内容の要旨)			
<p>This doctoral thesis investigates Japan's use of soft and economic power. That is, a country's ability to obtain desired outcomes that are not exclusively through sanctions or coercion but through cultural and economic attractiveness. Japan and Nepal have a unique relationship with multiple aspects, such as traditional friendship, cultural affinity as well as political, economic and public diplomacy. Before 2006, diplomatic and strategic partnerships between Japan and Nepal were based on imperial-royal links, government-to-government networks, cultural and economic ties, and people-to-people exchange. However, after the declaration of Nepal as a republic in 2008, the link between royal-imperial families became less prominent. Nevertheless, people-to-people ties have become a more important factor in Japan-Nepal relations, focusing on accelerating both economic and cultural diplomacy in a non-coercive manner. In recent years, multiple actors have become involved in strengthening Japan-Nepal relations. The government alone is not sufficient in transmitting ideas and information through the soft dimensions of culture and economic diplomacy; government agencies and non-governmental bodies are now playing an equally important role in promoting diplomatic relations both at the regional level and across the world.</p> <p>The main argument in this doctoral thesis is that the features of hard or soft power are not uniformly applicable and several variations in strategy and goals are visible when studying the foreign policy dynamic between Nepal and Japan. In actual practice, it means that some elements of either hard or soft power that are useful for Japan in its relations with South Korea or China, might not be equally effective between Japan and Nepal or between China and Nepal. On the other hand, the same agent, which is more active in enabling soft power in Japan-China relations, might not be equally active in Japan-Nepal relations; and some countries might need agents at all three-level, that is, state, sub-state, and non-state levels. Soft power of a country rests on its ability to set agendas and attract others to their side without using the threat of military force or economic sanctions, whereas hard power relies on the use of military and economic means to influence the behavior or interests of the other political bodies. Hard power is thus often more coercive and has immediate impacts when imposed by big powers on lesser military or economic powers. This study discusses only the economic aspect (i.e., Japan's official development</p>			

assistance or ODA) as Japan's hard power. Strong bilateral relations between the two countries necessitate the interplay of both hard and soft power. In addition, a country like Japan, with its smart power strategy, can maintain its positive image in contemporary international relations using a combination of both hard and soft power. Particularly with Nepal, Japan enables its economic (ODA) and soft power by different agents, in a non-coercive or cooperative manner.

The main research question that this study attempts to answer is: how and through which type and kinds of agents does Japan use its soft and economic power to build a long-term and sustainable bilateral relation with Nepal. Apropos this, and following Utpal Vyas' *Soft Power in Japan-China Relations*, I used the "three-level comparative structure" methodological approach as a case study for analyzing the activities of Japanese agents such as, the Japan Foundation and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) as state agents, sister-cities as a sub-state agent, and Japanese Universities Alumni Association, Nepal (JUAAN) in particular, as a non-state agent. In the case of Japan Foundation, most youths from different countries want to learn Japanese language either to work in Japan or their native country; thus, the Japan Foundation implements language education projects and encourages them to take Japanese language classes in Nepal or Japan. It also conducts cultural exchange and intellectual exchange programs both inside and outside Japan. Similarly, in the case of JICA, most developing countries want to apply for the Japanese grant and yen loan or technical cooperation. Thus, JICA implements attractive projects such as soft loans and technical cooperation by dispatching volunteers and expertise to Nepal and accepting trainees from Nepal. In Matsumoto City, Kathmandu city wished to learn Japanese martial arts, and Matsumoto City wished to support Kathmandu to build Marital Art Center and the construction of cultural heritage sites in Kathmandu Valley. In the case of JUAAN, most Nepalese who returned from Japan have pro-Japanese sentiments and are involved in promoting Japanese culture and ideas amongst the native population of Nepal and rest of the world through organizing seminars, conferences, and other cultural activities. Moreover, in the presence of Japan-Nepal experts, scholars, and researchers as well as government officials from both the countries are also actively engaged in promoting these cultural exchanges and links. This is how the transmission of Japanese ideas and knowledge has become a two-way process in Japan-Nepal relations.