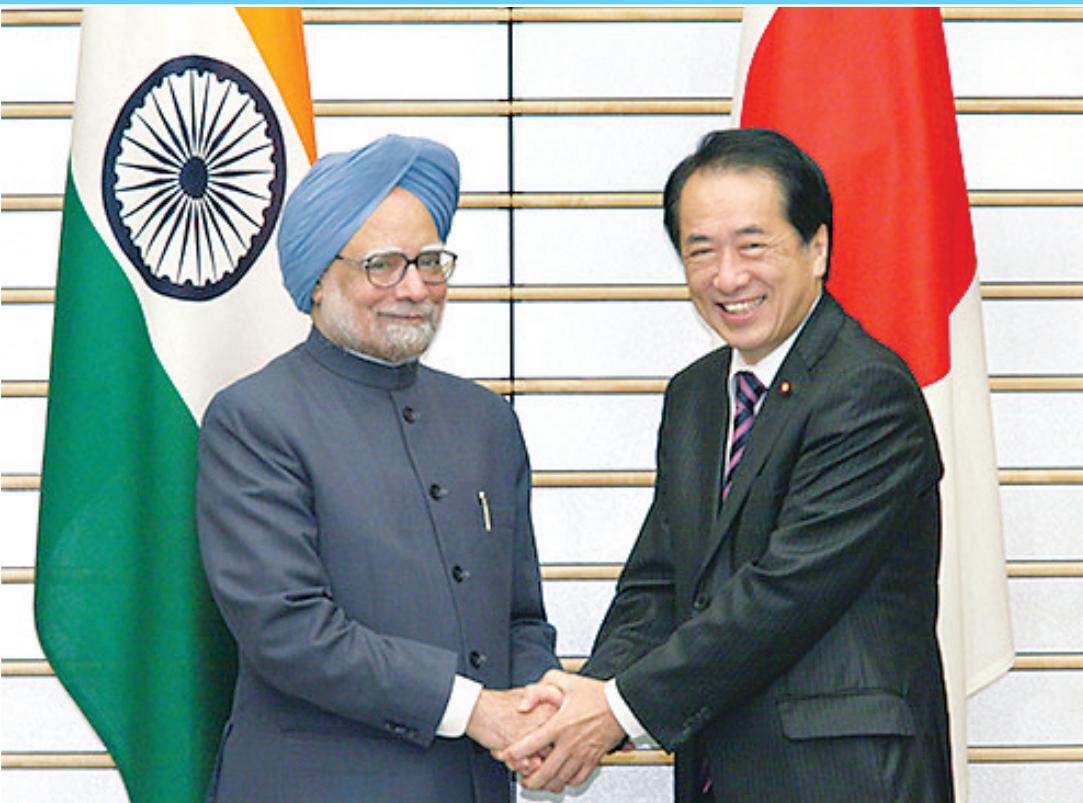


Japan Calling

December 2010

■ A quarterly newsletter from the Embassy of Japan, India 



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Prime Minister Mr. Naoto Kan at the Japan-India Annual Summit Meeting in Tokyo on October 25, 2010.

Photo courtesy: Cabinet Public Relations Office of Japan

CONTENTS

• Visit to Japan of His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, and Mrs. Gursharan Kaur	P. 2
• APEC Japan 2010 Economic Leaders' Meeting	P. 3
• The Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	P. 4
• Japan Cultural Months	P. 5
• One thousand Cranes (Orizuru) presented to the Ambassador of Japan	P. 9
• My Lifetime Experience in Nihon (Japan)	P. 10
• Okinawa Traditional Dance and Music Concert	P. 11
• Upcoming Event – Japan Educational Seminar in India	P. 12

VISIT TO JAPAN OF HIS EXCELLENCY DR. MANMOHAN SINGH, PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA, AND MRS. GURSHARAN KAUR

His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, and Mrs. Gursharan Kaur, visited Japan as guests of the Government of Japan, under the Official Working Visit programme, from 24 October to 26 October 2010.

During their stay in Japan, Prime Minister Singh and Mrs. Kaur were received in audience by Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan.

Mr. Naoto Kan, Prime Minister of Japan, had a meeting with Prime Minister Singh.

Between Japan and India, annual mutual visits by both Prime Ministers have taken place since 2005. This visit marks the fourth time for Dr. Singh to visit Japan as Prime Minister.

Following their Annual Summit Meeting on October 25, 2010, the two Prime Ministers issued

a Joint Statement, whose salient features are given below:



Photograph of the leaders signing a joint statement and other documents

Photo courtesy: Cabinet Public Relations Office of Japan

JOINT STATEMENT (SALIENT FEATURES)

Vision for Japan-India Strategic and Global Partnership in the Next Decade

1. The two Prime Ministers expressed their common desire to further consolidate, enhance and expand the Strategic and Global Partnership between them through the second decade of the 21st Century.
2. They also supported the establishment of a Ministerial Level Economic Dialogue between Japan and India to give strategic and long-term policy orientation to their bilateral economic engagement, taking into account the regional and global context and to coordinate economic issues of cross-cutting nature, including infrastructure development and financing.
3. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the successful conclusion of negotiations on a balanced and mutually beneficial Japan-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).
4. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the commencement of negotiations between Japan and India on an Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy in June 2010. They affirmed that cooperation in this sector will open up new opportunities for further developing the Japan-India Strategic and Global Partnership. They encouraged their negotiators to arrive at a mutually satisfactory agreement for civil nuclear cooperation at an early date.
5. The two Prime Ministers hoped that the signing of the Memorandum on Simplifying Visa Procedures will further facilitate the movement of people between Japan and India.
6. The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed their resolve to realize a comprehensive reform of the United Nations (UN) Security Council, especially its expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories which has commanded the maximum support from UN member states in the text-based intergovernmental negotiations in the UN General Assembly. They shared their view that both countries would participate actively in these negotiations and decided to accelerate their efforts, bilaterally as well as in close cooperation with the G4 and other like-minded countries.

(The complete text of the Joint Statement can be accessed at http://www.mofa.go.jp/region/asia-paci/india/pm1010/joint_st.html)

Besides issuing the above Joint Statement, the two leaders also made a Joint Declaration on the Conclusion of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between Japan and the Republic of India.

(The complete text of Joint Declaration can be accessed at http://www.mofa.go.jp/region/asia-paci/india/pm1010/joint_de.html)

APEC JAPAN 2010 ECONOMIC LEADERS' MEETING

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is a forum for 21 Pacific Rim countries (including Japan) that seeks to promote free trade and economic cooperation throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Established in 1989 in response to the growing interdependence of Asia-Pacific economies and the advent of regional economic blocs (such as the European Union and the North American Free Trade Area) in other parts of the world, APEC works to raise living standards and education levels through sustainable economic growth and to foster a sense of community and an appreciation of shared interests among Asia-Pacific countries.

An annual APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting is attended by the heads of government of all APEC members except the Republic of China (Taiwan) which is represented under the name Chinese Taipei by a ministerial-level official. The location of the meeting rotates annually among the member economies. This year's annual meeting was held in Yokohama, Japan, on 13-14 November 2010, whose Summary (General Overview) is given below:

Summary (General Overview)

During the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting held in Yokohama between November 13 and 14, 2010, the Leaders discussed the themes of regional economic integration, the APEC Leaders' Growth Strategy, human security, and the future of the Asia-Pacific region. Based on these discussions, the Leaders' Declaration, "The Yokohama Vision - Bogor and Beyond," was adopted. The Vision lays out paths toward APEC becoming a more "economically-integrated community" that promotes stronger and deeper regional economic integration, a more "robust com-

munity" with a higher quality of growth, and a more "secure community" that provides a more secure economic environment.



Photo courtesy: Cabinet Public Relations Office of Japan

prehensive and long-term growth strategy for the Asia-Pacific region, the APEC Leaders' Growth Strategy, to be implemented towards 2015 with the aim of realizing a more "robust community". The Leaders also agreed to safeguard human security through an initiative to build a more "secure community" focusing on food security, disaster management, infectious disease preparedness, anti-corruption, and counter-terrorism efforts, etc.

During the meeting, Mr. Naoto Kan, Prime Minister of Japan, exerted leadership as the Chair, making clear his determination for the further "opening" of Japan. He stated that Japan would pursue additional liberalization of its economy to support the efforts of APEC members for regional economic integration. In doing so, he sent a forward-looking message conveying Japan's intent to move towards growth together with the world, including the Asia-

Specifically, the Leaders endorsed the Report on APEC's 2010 Economies' Progress Towards the Bogor Goals Agreement, and agreed to take concrete steps towards the realization of a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) in order to further promote regional economic integration in the Asia-Pacific region, thereby achieving a more "economically-integrated community". To this end, the Leaders confirmed that an FTAAP should be pursued as a comprehensive free trade agreement by developing and building on ongoing regional undertakings, such as ASEAN+3, ASEAN+6, and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), among others. In addition, they formulated the first

Pacific region, which has demonstrated remarkable economic development. The stance of Japan was of great significance as APEC members worked to concretely set the course of action towards the realization of an FTAAP. Going forward, APEC members will take concrete steps to realize “The Yokohama Vision”. The Vision, announced this year, will be passed on to the next APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting in the United States, where it is ex-

pected that the Vision will take on an even clearer shape and bring about intended results.

(*The complete text of the Meeting Summary can be accessed at http://www.apec2010.go.jp/en/docs/aelm_summary.html*)

(*The complete text of the Leaders’ Declaration “The Yokohama Vision – Bogor and Beyond” can be accessed at http://www.apec2010.go.jp/en/docs/aelmdeclaration2010_e.pdf*)

THE TENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP10) TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD): JAPAN CONTRIBUTES TO THE ADOPTION OF THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL AND OTHER IMPORTANT DECISIONS AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE

The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was held in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, from October 18 to 29. The meeting drew the participation of more than 13,000 people from the Parties to the Convention, relevant international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other institutions. H.E. Mr. Ryu Matsumoto, Minister of the Environment, served as the President of the Conference. On October 27, H.E. Mr. Naoto Kan, Prime Minister of Japan, attended the High Level Segment of COP10 that the Government of Japan hosted concurrently from October 27 to 29.

During the meeting, Prime Minister Kan announced the Life in Harmony Initiative (2 billion dollars) to support efforts being made by developing countries for biological diversity conservation; Minister Matsumoto announced the Japan Biodiversity Fund (1 billion yen) developed under the above Initiative to support the compilation of national strategies on biological diversity, and assistance (1 billion yen) to developing countries for capacity building regarding Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) related to genetic resources. Furthermore, H.E. Mr. Yutaka Banno, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, announced specific assistance

measures concerning genetic resources and forest conservation.

COP10 adopted the Nagoya Protocol on ABS and the New Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity (the “Aichi Target”) for 2011 onward. In addition, the fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties Serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP5), held prior to COP10, adopted the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress for Damages Resulting from Living Modified Organisms.

Japan, as the President of the COP10 and COP-MOP5 meetings, welcomes these outcomes. For the heavily debated Nagoya Protocol, Japan contributed to building consensus among the Parties toward the agreement by presenting a balanced draft President’s text which reflected the interests of all the Parties at the meeting. Going forward, Japan will contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and proactively support the efforts of developing countries to achieve the Aichi Target and implement the Nagoya Protocol by utilizing its knowledge and technology, taking into account the needs of developing countries.

JAPAN CULTURAL MONTHS

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2010

As in the previous years, the Japan Cultural Months were recently held in New Delhi and surrounding areas during October – December 2010. Some of the main highlights of the cultural events presented during the Cultural Months are:

6th Origami Contest



Tagore International School, Vasant Vihar, in cooperation with the Embassy of Japan, organized the 6th Origami Competition on 28 October 2010. The participants competed in categories of ‘solo/group’ and ‘teachers’ with different themes, and displayed their skills in paper folding art innovatively. The panel of judges awarded the best creations in a prize distribution event held at Japan Foundation, New Delhi, on 1st November 2010.

Chaand ke Paar – ‘Otsukimi’ Moon Viewing Festival Celebrated

The Indian Council for Japanese Culture (ICJC) celebrated Chaand Ke Paar – Otsukimi, Moon Viewing Festival, as part of

the Japan Cultural Months, on 16th November 2010, at India International Centre. Otsukimi refers to the Japanese tradition of viewing the harvest moon, especially by the aristocrats during the Heian period, who would gather to recite poetry under the full moon.

There are several works penned on the beauty of the moon in Japan and India. According to Japanese folklore, rabbits live on the moon and are pounding mochi rice cake. Rabbits living on earth also came from the moon and, on nights of full moon they look up their old home and jump around recalling the pleasant memories there. According to an Indian folklore, an old lady has been spinning cotton for long on the moon which becomes silk.

It was indeed a wonderful idea of Dr. Raj Buddhiraja to arrange a poetry recital session where Dr. Ramsharan Gaur, Gulshan Kharbandha, Dr. Buddhiraja, Laxmi Shankar Vajpay, Sherjung Garg, Kojiro Uchiyama, Masahiro Nagira, T. Hoshina, Yuriko Lochan, Yoshio Takakura, and Tomoko Kikuchi recited their poems in the presence of Dr. Sarojini Mahishi (former Law Minister). Classical works of Japan and India,



such as Manyoshu, Genji Monogatari, Yajurveda, Kabir, Raskhan, Parmanand Das, and romantic poetry were also recited. The power of the poetry was so overwhelming and mesmerizing that everybody felt as if the moon had descended into the packed hall. The poets also sang some Japanese popular songs. The different moods of moon were also presented on the screen.

The gathered poets found similarities and appreciated the rich poetry on Moon existing in each other's country. On this occasion, two books written by Dr. Buddhiraja, namely 'Chaand' and 'Safar Ki Yadeen' were released by Mr. Kojiro Uchiyama, Director, Japan Information Centre, and Mr. Nao Endo, Director General, Japan Foundation. The event was presided over by the well known writer, Mr. Dinesh Mishra.

The Seventh Japan Quiz

The annual Japan Quiz, being conducted by the Embassy of Japan since 2004, has become quite popular with the Indian student community. A total of 129 teams of 3 students each from prominent schools of NCR Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and UP participated in this year's Quiz which was held on 26th November at the Sai International Auditorium. The teams took the written preliminary test, and the top 12 teams went into the semi finals (two rounds of 6 teams each). The top 3 teams from these rounds took the Final Round which was a multimedia extravaganza. While appreciating the participants' knowledge on several aspects of Japan, Mr. Kojiro Uchiyama, Counsellor,



Embassy of Japan, gave away trophies to the winners, namely Arnav Sharma, Apratim Singh, Shashwat Nagar of New Era Public School, Mayapuri - First prize; K Aishwarya, Jigya Yadav, Abhimanyu Grover of DPS, Mathura Road – Second prize; and Lakshya Aggarwal, Sanchit Garg, Aditya Khanduri of DPS, Indirapuram – Third prize. He also announced that the first prize winning team of New Era Public School will be sent to Japan under the JENESYS program in May/June 2011.

Chin-don-ya



Chin-don-ya is a unique profession of advertising on the streets. The group plays cheerful music and masquerades to capture attention. The group comprises of **Mametarou**, Chin-don drum player, who delivers the advertising message; **Asako**, big drum player (called "gorosu"), and **Ikepon**, wind instrument player, who plays old nostalgic songs or popular songs. The group, **Kisuke** (ki means "be happy" and suke means "help") was formed in 2003 and, since then, has given many performances in Japan. During their visit to India, they gave performances at Amity International School, Vasundhra, and Mayur Vihar, National School of Drama, American Embassy School, Japanese School, and AFS. The audience happily offered their heads to the Lion (a performer wearing a mask), as it is believed that the Lion, when it bites their head, takes away their bad luck. The group enthralled the audience at every venue and made them happy.

Origami Workshop/Contest

The ‘Ship for World Youth Alumni Association–India’ (SWYAA-India) organized an Origami workshop by a trained teacher, from 8th -13th November 2010, at the Basti Vikas Kendra, Nangal Raya, for underprivileged children from slums. The children exhibited their skills in a contest organized on the 13th in the presence of Mr. Kojiro Uchiyama, Director, Japan Information Centre, and Mr. Shinichi Yamanaka, Chief Representative, JICA.

Exhibition of Paintings by Indian and Japanese children

SWYAA-India organized a painting workshop for underprivileged children last year, under the guidance of an eminent artist, which gave them an insight into the world of art. The paintings made by these children depicted nature, wildlife, their aspirations, habitation, friends and family. The paintings



made by Japanese children studying in primary grades introduced Japan through their festivals, food, flowers, games and cherry blossoms. SWYAA-India organized an exhibition of these paintings at the Ingraham Institute, Ghaziabad, on 20th November 2010.



Ikebana events

Ikebana International Association - Gurgaon Chapter organized two events: demonstrations by Mrs. Ratna Guha, Sogetsu master, and Mrs. Indira Misra, second term master of Ohara school (Oct 23); and by Ohara masters (Nov



20). Delhi Ikebana International organized Ikebana demonstration to celebrate Diwali – Festival of Lights (Oct 27) and Ikebana Morning (Nov 18) to showcase the works of famous potter Mr. Pandit of Mumbai. Ohara School of



Ikebana - Delhi invited Ms. Shyamala Ganesh, Sub Grand Master from Bangalore, and held a demonstration (Nov 9).

Sogetsu School organized a workshop (Nov 11) on the theme of 'Repeating Similar Forms and Shapes' by Mrs. Veena Dass, who studied Sogetsu style under the tutelage of Sofu Teshigahara, and holds a Riji degree. Sogetsu also invited Mrs. Yuriko Omata Jobst, who conducted a demonstration and workshop (Nov 22/23) in Delhi. Mrs. Jobst learnt Ikenobo style of Ikebana in Tokyo and Kyoto, and has held demonstrations, exhibitions in Switzerland, Germany and India. SWYAA-India and Ingraham Institute, Ghaziabad, provided a unique opportunity for school children of all ages to learn the art of "IKEBANA" (Nov 20).

Model Presentation on Japanese Cities



It is very common for people to know only about the capital city of a country. However, CSKM Public School took the initiative and inspired its students to make model presentation on eight Japanese cities, namely, Tokyo, Yokohama, Osaka, Nagoya, Kobe, Hiroshima, Sapporo, and Kawasaki, on 4th November, to create awareness about different cities of Japan. The activity was organized under the Syndicate System - one super syndicate, one above average student, and one average student .The idea was to practically understand and learn to work together through co-ordination, co-operation and co-operative learning. The Chief Guest on the occasion was Mr. Masahiro Nagira, Third Secretary, Embassy of Japan. The Guests of Honour were Mr. T. Hoshina, Director, Japan Foundation, and Mr. Iwao Sawada, Principal, Japanese School, who evaluated the models and declared the winners.

Painting exhibition: Eco Art – Nihonga - a kaleidoscope of experiments

Mrs. Madhu Jain exhibited her paintings on the theme of Eco Art from October 29-31 at Epi Centre, Gurgaon. She



is an acclaimed artist, who researched and studied Nihonga - a Japanese style of painting from artists and teachers in Japan. She adapted this technique to create her own style and expression, depicting rural folks of India. She achieved depth in her nature paintings, through the layering of rock mineral pigments, which in turn, give added dimension to her paintings.

Nihon No Kaori - The Fragrance of Japan



Principal, Dr. D.R.Saini, Chairman, Mr. Ashok Chandra, Mr. Shinichi Yamanaka, Mr. Teruyuki Hoshina, Mrs. B.N. Kirpal at the Japanese Language Festival at DPS R.K.Puram

The DPS Society has been active in promoting Japanese language education in its member schools. In order to bring together the students who are learning Japanese, DPS RK Puram organized 'Nihon no Kaori – The Fragrance of Japan' on October 30, by holding a variety of competitions like Origami collage, Calligraphy, Quiz, Japanese Tongue Twister, Singing, Fancy Dress, etc. Mr. Ashok Chandra, Chairman of DPS Society, Mr. S. Yamanaka of JICA, Mr. T. Hoshina of Japan Foundation, and Mr. M. Nagira of the Embassy of Japan were present on the occasion.

Events of Indo- Japan Association for Literature and Culture (IJALC)

IJALC organized a Symposium on Japanese Literature: Reinterpreting Matsuo Basho and Ishigaki Rin (Nov 26), and an Exhibition of Calligraphy and Painting on Ono no Komachi's Waka (Nov 26-27). It has also released two books: "Urdu Shayari Ka Guldasta: Japanese, Urdu, Hindi" (Nov 12) and "Japanese Literature: The Indian Mirror: A collection of researched essays by Indian scholars" (Nov 26).



Northern Region Japanese Language Speech Contest

Mombusho Scholars Association of India (MOSAI) conducted the 23rd Northern Region Japanese Language Speech Contest this October. Students from Japanese language institutions in and around Delhi participated in the contest. The

students spoke on a variety of topics like their dreams, their experiences, Indian society, Indian culture, comparisons of Japanese and Indian lifestyle and culture, etc. The winners were: Junior group: Ashish Joshi (JAPROC) –First; Arun S Bisht (JAPROC) – Second; and Montu Kumar (Nihongo Centre) – Third / Senior group: Arnab Dasgupta (JNU) – First; Pallavi Kulshreshta (Mosai Institute) – Second; and Archana (Mosai Institute) – Third.

ONE THOUSAND CRANES (ORIZURU) PRESENTED TO THE AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN

Thirty children from the slums of Delhi who are studying in the educational centers set up by the *Ship for World Youth Alumni Association-India (SWYAA-India)* made one thousand cranes (Ori-Zuru) wishing for friendship, cooperation and peace between India and Japan, with the help of Mr. Hiroki Kaneki, a student from Waseda University, Tokyo.

In Japan, Mr. Hiroki Kaneko had heard about SWYAA-India and our work with underprivileged children in Delhi. He had planned to visit India for three weeks in September as a tourist but decided to volunteer his time to teach Origami and Japanese language to the children.

When the children came to know about this opportunity they flocked to our education center and were very happy to see the young Japanese Sensei who had come all the way from Japan to teach them. They immediately took to Origami as colorful paper was given to them, and beautiful shapes unfolded from paper. To their surprise, soon they were able to make the most wonderful objects from these papers. They



also learned that cranes have a very special place in the traditions of many cultures. Cranes are noble birds, demonstrating life long attachments to those they love, living for many years,

defending their homes against intruders. As such, the crane has become the symbol for honor, loyalty, long life and joy; and soon they decided to make one thousand such cranes as per the tradition in Japan and display them in the traditional way.



Saif Ali, Dheeraj, Abhishek, Bittu Kumar, Ramzan and Shamsuddin presented 1000 Orizuru to Hon'ble Mr. Hideaki Domichi, Ambassador of Japan to India, for friendship, cooperation and peace between India and Japan, on Thursday, 23rd September, 2010. The Hon'ble Ambassador appreciated the skills of these children and enquired about their future plans and aspirations. He was glad to know that all these children were learning basic communication skills in Japanese language at SWYAA-India, and keenly listened to their song in Japanese. He encouraged the children to learn more about Origami by seeing various exhibits available.

The Orizuru made by the children of SWYAA-India has found a place to perch in the Embassy of Japan, New Delhi

Ravi Chopra
General Secretary, SWYAA-India

MY LIFETIME EXPERIENCE IN NIHON (JAPAN)

During my monotonous school life, one day I participated in the Japan Quiz. After a few months I came to know that I, along with some others, had been selected for a 12 day visit to Japan under the programme named **Japan – East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youth (JENESYS)**. We were the fifth Indian batch joining this program. The programme was organised by the Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE).

My journey to Japan started on 21st June from Hotel Ashok, New Delhi, where we had an orientation programme. The next day we boarded the Japan Airlines plane and left India by 7.30pm. There were around 130 participants comprising of University and High School Students. We were divided into 6 groups and I was in the Yamagata group. It took around 8 to 9 hours to reach Tokyo from New Delhi. While boarding the flight I still couldn't believe that I was going to one of the world's most developed and costliest countries, without paying even a single paisa for it.

From Narita Airport, we travelled by bus to the Shinagawa Prince Hotel, Tokyo. While walking on the streets, many people bowed and greeted me. I was astonished! I also bowed to them with a very happy face. It was strange to see unknown people, whom I had never met, smiling and bowing to me and my friends, although we were complete strangers to them. It was very heart-warming and brought me closer to Japanese culture.

In Tokyo, we went to see the Edo Tokyo Museum and realized that all museums are not boring. Then our group moved from Tokyo to Yamagata, a prefecture of Japan. Yama means mountains, and Yamagata is aptly named so, because it has beautiful snow covered mountains and trees, with lush greenery till everywhere the eye can see. It reminded me of my own hometown Guwahati, which is also surrounded by green hills. In Yamagata, we were taken to the Tohoku University of CSS, where we were shown 1872 solar panels built by the local people of the area. The solar panels could provide electricity to 100 houses for a year. Then we moved to the Wind Power Summit. There we saw 8 windmills and, surprisingly, 5 of them were on the Japan Sea. We enquired why the windmills were built on the sea, and the guide replied with a smiling face, “To save land for other purposes, dear!” All the windmills were controlled by a single computer. It was a wonderful technology invented by the Japanese people. Though I was not very surprised; it was Japan, after all!

In Yamagata, we stayed in the Daichi Hotel Tsuruoka. Yamagata is famous for cherries. On 26th June, we went to a cherry orchard and did some cherry picking. We also ate them and they were delicious.

Then came the most amazing part: ‘The Home Stay’. Participants in groups of 2 to 3 had to stay with Japanese families in their houses to experience the Japanese lifestyle more closely. These families took part in this programme voluntarily, without any demand from the Government. I, along with one more participant, went to stay with the ‘Hasegawa’ family. The father was a priest. Two of our friends’ home stay father was a farmer, and he had several cars along with one latest and costliest sports car in Yamagata. They knew little English, but I can’t forget their love and affectionate hospitality towards us. They were very kind-hearted people. They took us for sightseeing, to visit schools, shopping, and many other places, along with their children. Before entering any place in Japan, you have to leave your shoes outside and then enter with the slippers of that place - whether it’s your school, or your home, or your office. Also, punctuality was very important there. The guide told me that once their bullet train ‘SHINKANSEN’ was 5 minutes late, and it was broadcasted as ‘breaking news’. One day, during my stay with the family, we went to an Indian restaurant for dinner, where we ordered Butter Nan and Chicken, and the Hasegawa family found Indian food OISHIDES (very tasty). While departing, I felt sad and tears rolled down my eyes.

On 28th June, we were taken to the Tsuruoka High School. The school was a government school and it had a very big compound. I was surprised to know that the whole school was cleaned by the students themselves. They had classes for dress-designing, makeup, cooking, etc. In the school, we learnt how to cook Japanese food and make Origami (Japanese crafts). The students of the school were curious to know about Indian culture and about our school. They dressed us up in their traditional ‘KIMONO’.

Then, the next day, we went to a recycling centre. In Japan, the public places had around five different types of dustbins depending on the type of waste materials, and so, 70% of the



With the Hasegawa family



Windmills in Yamagata

wastes were recycled .They said that recycling is not something remote to them, but is an everyday part of their life. They have also started campaigning to reduce trash, which they believe to be the most important factor in the recycling process. After that, we visited the beautiful five-storey Pagoda which was around a century old, but still very amazing.

After having a wonderful experience in Yamagata, we returned to Tokyo. One instance that I would like to quote is, once when my friends and I were standing on the pavement,

waiting to cross the road. We were waiting for the rush to get over on the zebra crossing, but surprisingly we did not have to wait. The buses and the cars stopped on their own and allowed us to cross the road. That was remarkable! Although even a fraction of a second matters to them, but the feeling and safety for others matters to them more. From my stay in Japan, one thing that I inferred about the Japanese people was that they were very cool-minded, hardworking, punctual and polite. What more does a country expect from its citizens! It is rightly said, “Japan is the land of the rising sun but when the sun rises, it rises for all”.

The Indian Embassy at Tokyo bade us farewell on 1st July. Taking the love of these benevolent Japanese people in my heart, I stepped into the huge Japan Airlines aircraft with the experience of a lifetime. I looked down at the most ideal city of the world from the window of the aircraft. Everything became smaller gradually... and words automatically came out from my mouth, “SAYONARA- NIHON.”(Goodbye, Japan)

Kasturi Kalita, Class- X
C.S.K.M Public School, New Delhi

OKINAWA TRADITIONAL DANCE AND MUSIC CONCERT

An OKINAWA Traditional/Folk Dance and Music Concert was held in New Delhi as a part of the recently concluded Delhi International Arts Festival. The event, organized by the Embassy of Japan in association with Japan Foundation New Delhi, Delhi International Arts Festival, and the National Integrated Forum of Artists and Activists, took place on 9th December 2010, at the Siri Fort Auditorium, Khel Gaon Marg, New Delhi, and admission was free to the general public.

Okinawa is a tiny group of islands in the southern part of Japan. Though it might not be easy to locate it on the world map, however, it has fostered a unique culture, distinct from that of mainland Japan. The performing arts of Okinawa are an amalgam of the best of art styles from various lands with which Okinawa had longtime trading ties, such as mainland Japan, China, Southeast Asia, etc.

The most outstanding example of such an amalgam is KUMIODORI (music drama), which is designated by the Japanese Government as an ‘Important Intangible Cultural Asset’. The international popularity of Okinawan performing arts is mainly owing to its multinational origin and background.

In this concert organized by the NPO Okinawa Culture Association, the Okinawa traditional dance and music players presented the essence of beautiful, elegant and cheerful arts of Okinawa.

Prior to Delhi, a show of the programme was also held at the NDRI Auditorium in Karnal, Haryana, on 6th December 2010.

The performances were immensely enjoyed and appreciated by the audience who gathered in large numbers to witness the programme at both the venues.



UPCOMING EVENT

JAPAN EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR IN INDIA

1. Objective

In order to attract more international students to Japan, The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (MEXT) launched the “Global 30” Project for Establishing Core Universities for Internationalization and selected 13 universities to function as core institutions to receive and educate students from abroad. Under the Project, a student can obtain a degree from a prestigious Japanese university by taking programs taught in English, both in undergraduate and graduate levels.

To promote the Project and recruit prospective students, we are advertising our newly established English courses abroad.

Note: Universities under the “Global 30” Project include

Tohoku University, University of Tsukuba, The University of Tokyo, Nagoya University,
Kyoto University, Osaka University, Kyushu University, Keio University, Sophia University, Meiji University, Waseda University, Doshisha University, and Ritsumeikan University (13 universities total).

2. City, Date, and Venue

(1) Delhi (India)

Friday, January 28, 2011 1:00 to 5:00 pm
Hotel Le Meridien New Delhi
Windsor Place Janpath, New Delhi, 110 001, India

(2) Bangalore (India)

Sunday, January 30, 2011 1:00 to 5:00 pm
Taj Residency
41/3, M G Road, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560 001, India



Japan Education Seminar 2009 in India

3. Participants

- Prospective undergraduate and graduate students
- Others

4. Contents of the Seminars

- (1) Presentations by the “Global 30” Project universities. Universities involved in the “Global 30” Project present brief overviews concerning their education systems, programs, admission procedures, etc.
- (2) Lecture demonstrations
We hope participants will actively join in the lectures given by professors of the “Global 30” Project universities.
- (3) Individual consultation
For questions concerning educational systems and programs, admission procedures, characteristics, etc., the “Global 30” Project universities will have booths for advice and to answer questions of participants who intend to study in Japan. Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) booth will broadly inform participants about Study in Japan.

5. List of Universities

Delhi (India) /Bangalore (India)

- Tohoku University, University of Tsukuba, The University of Tokyo, Kyoto University, Osaka University, Kyushu University, Keio University, Sophia University (Bangalore only), Meiji University, Doshisha University, and Ritsumeikan University
- Japan Student Services Organization(JASSO)

6. Further Inquiries

Contact: The University of Tokyo (Coordinating University for the “Global 30” Project)

Email: G30office@ml.adm.u-tokyo.ac.jp

7. Registration Form

Online Registration Form:

For online registration, please go to:

<http://www.uni.international.mext.go.jp/event/20110128/reg/>

ORGANIZATIONS AFFILIATED WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

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Key in “www.in.emb-japan.go.jp” to access the website of the Embassy of Japan, New Delhi.

Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)

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For West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa: The Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata.

For Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh: The Consulate General of Japan in Chennai.

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For remaining states and territories: Japan Information Centre, Embassy of Japan, New Delhi.

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