

Japan Calling

February 2012

☐ A quarterly newsletter from the Embassy of Japan, India 



2012 – Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and India

‘Resurgent Japan and Vibrant India: New Discoveries, New Exchanges’



Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at the signing ceremony of the Joint Statement following their Summit Meeting on 28 December 2011 in New Delhi (Photo courtesy: Cabinet Public Relations Office, Japan)

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1. Bilateral Governmental Dignitaries Exchange

State Visit to India by Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda

December 27-28, 2011

I. Summary of Itinerary

1. Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda and Mrs. Noda paid a State Visit to Delhi, India, from Tuesday, December 27, to Wednesday, December 28, 2011.
2. In the morning of December 28, Prime Minister Noda attended a welcome ceremony and offered a wreath at Raj Ghat. Prime Minister Noda then received a courtesy call by Minister of External Affairs Mr. S. M. Krishna, delivered an address at a meeting hosted by the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), and attended a luncheon meeting hosted by India's three industry and commerce organizations. In the afternoon, the Prime Minister met with Vice President Mr. Mohammad Hamid Ansari, and held a Summit meeting with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, followed by a joint press conference. Prime Minister Noda and Mrs. Noda attended a dinner hosted by Prime Minister Singh and Mrs. Singh.
3. At the Summit meeting, the two Prime Ministers exchanged views on enhancing cooperation in a wide range of areas, including bilateral relations, in political, security and economic fields among others, as well as the regional situation and global issues. After the meeting, the two Prime Ministers signed a Joint Statement entitled, "Vision for the Enhancement of Japan-India Strategic and Global Partnership upon entering the year of the 60th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations".

II. Overview of summit meeting

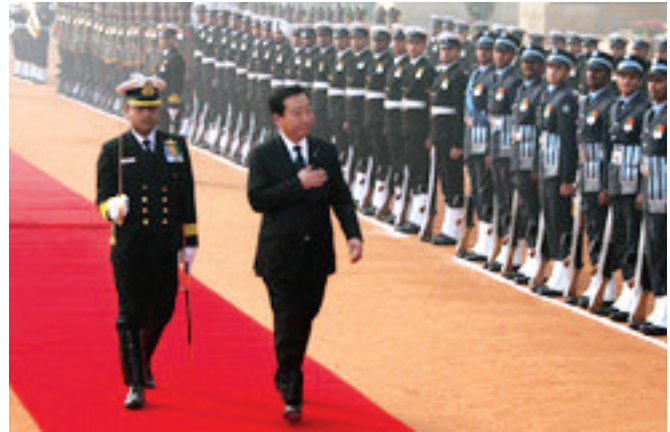
1. Bilateral relations

(1) General

1. Prime Minister Noda reiterated his gratitude for the substantial support extended from India in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake. Prime Minister Singh expressed his hope that Japan will make a full recovery as early as possible.
2. The two Prime Ministers concurred that, as the year 2012 marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and India, they would make best use of the opportunity to strengthen cultural and people-to-people exchanges in order to deepen mutual understanding at their citizens' level.

(2) Political and security fields

1. The two Prime Ministers affirmed the importance of continuing Annual Summits between them. Prime Minister Noda extended to Prime Minister Singh his invitation to visit Japan in 2012, which Prime Minister Singh accepted with pleasure.



Prime Minister Noda inspecting the Guard of Honour at Rashtrapati Bhavan

2. The two Prime Ministers expressed satisfaction at the holding of the Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue and of Defense Ministers' meeting.
3. The two Prime Ministers affirmed that they would expand cooperation in the area of maritime security, including safety and freedom of navigation. They welcomed the bilateral exercise between the Maritime Self-Defense Force and the Indian Navy to be held in 2012.

(3) Economy and Economic Cooperation

1. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the entry into force of the Japan-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in August this year and the commencement of negotiations on an agreement on social security.
2. With regard to the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC), Prime Minister Noda announced the intention of the Government of Japan to make available finance totaling 4.5 billion US dollars in the next five years. The two Prime Ministers concurred that they would promote participation of Japanese companies to realize the DMIC. In this regard, both Governments reached an agreement on such issues as Japan's involvement with the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (DMICDC), relaxation of financial restrictions so as to promote DMIC projects, allocation of natural gas for DMIC projects, and early realization of three model projects, namely, seawater desalination at Dahej, Gujarat, a microgrid system using large-scale photovoltaic (PV) power generation Project at Neemrana Industrial Area in Rajasthan, and gas-fired independent power producer (IPP) Project in Maharashtra.

3. The two Prime Ministers concurred on the need to strengthen bilateral cooperation on infrastructure development in Southern India, improvement of connectivity between Chennai and Bangalore, and development of India's High-speed railway system.
4. Prime Minister Noda pledged that the Government of Japan would extend ODA loans totaling approximately 1.7 billion US dollars (approx. 134.3 billion yen) in total for two projects including for the Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System Project.
5. The two Prime Ministers decided to enhance the earlier bilateral currency swap arrangement from 3 billion US dollars to 15 billion US dollars.
6. Concerning civil nuclear cooperation, Prime Minister Singh noted that he understood Japan's sensitivity well. The two Prime Ministers decided to move forward with the negotiations with a view to concluding an Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy in a mutually satisfactory manner.
7. With regard to rare earths, the two Prime Ministers shared the view that both Governments should continue their dialogue in order for Japanese and Indian enterprises to jointly undertake industrial activities.

currency swap arrangement, extension of ODA loans including for the Delhi Mass Rapid Transport System, joint rare earths projects, among others.

3. With regard to regional situations and global issues, the two Prime Ministers also affirmed that the two countries continue cooperation in various regional issues in Asia and other international issues such as the global economy and climate change.



A view of the summit meeting between the two Prime Ministers

2. Regional Situations and Global Issues

1. On North Korea, Prime Minister Noda emphasized the critical importance of stability in the situation on North Korea, and asked for India's understanding and cooperation on Japan's position including on the abduction issue. Prime Minister Singh responded that India intends to cooperate closely with Japan.
2. The two Prime Ministers also exchanged views on regional situations in Asia as well as a range of global issues including global economy, climate change, disarmament and non-proliferation, and United Nations Security Council reform, and affirmed that the two countries continue cooperation on these issues.



Prime Minister Noda receiving a courtesy call by Minister of External Affairs Mr. S. M. Krishna

III. Evaluation

1. As the year 2011 marks the fifth year since the establishment of the Japan-India Strategic and Global Partnership in 2006, with the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2012, this State visit by Prime Minister Noda has impressed on all sides the friendly bilateral relationship between Japan and India, and contributed to further consolidating a trusting relationship at the leaders' level.
2. With regard to bilateral relations, the two Prime Ministers shared the view that they should expand cooperation in the area of maritime security in the political and security fields. Substantial progress was made in many economic areas, including cooperation for the DMIC, infrastructure development in Southern India including the connectivity between Chennai and Bangalore, enhancement of the bilateral



Prime Minister Noda delivering his address at the meeting hosted by ICWA

(Text & Photos courtesy: Cabinet Public Relations Office, Japan)

JAPANESE FIRST LADY VISITS DELHI SCHOOL

During the recent state visit to India by the Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Yoshihiko Noda, his wife, Mrs. Hitomi Noda, paid a visit to the Bluebells School International, New Delhi, on 28 December 2011.

Mrs. Noda, along with Mrs. Gursharan Kaur, wife of the Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, spent time interacting with students who had gathered at the school to meet her and Mrs. Kaur.

Addressing the students, Mrs. Noda said that India is quite popular in Japan and is frequently mentioned in Japanese newspapers. She said the relationship between India and Japan has been growing stronger with every passing year and hoped that the friendship between the two countries would continue to flourish in the future. She added that students should appreciate various cultures and learn from each other.

Besides the cultural programme presented by the students, the occasion also saw the unveiling of the celebrating song of the 60th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and India. The seven-minute long musical piece was composed by Mr. Masahiro Nagira, Third Secretary in the Embassy of Japan in New Delhi. To infuse the message of friendship in this composition, he assigned Part I to Japanese, Part II to Hindi, Part III to a fusion of both countries' traditional instruments, and Part IV to English, to enable everyone to sing together in the last part. With the idea of furthering the friendship between the two countries, especially among the younger generations, the Japanese and Indian students in New Delhi sang the song. The Indian students were selected from five reputed schools where Japanese language is taught.

The song was finally presented as a live performance on December 28, 2011, at the Bluebells School International, New Delhi, and was much appreciated by the audience comprising Mrs. Gursharan Kaur, Mrs. Hitomi Noda, students, parents and faculties.

During her sojourn in Delhi on 28 December 2011, Mrs. Noda also visited the classical dance school Ganesa Natyalaya, a prime Bharatanatyam art institution established in 1974 by Dr. Saroja Vaidyanathan to teach Bharatanatyam dance.

The Natyalaya gave a warm welcome to Mrs. Noda and arranged a very enjoyable dance recital by the Natyalaya's artistes, which included many Japanese students who are learning Bharatanatyam at Ganesa Natyalaya. Mrs. Noda enjoyed watching the Indian classical dance and expressed her happiness.

Mrs. Noda also paid a visit to Kalavati Saran Children's Hospital - which was supported by Japanese ODA, Dilli Haat, and INA Market, to understand the diversity and lively Indian cultures during her stay in Delhi.



Mrs. Hitomi Noda (left) with Mrs. Gursharan Kaur (centre) at Bluebells School International



Japanese and Indian children singing together the 60th Anniversary Theme Song



Mrs. Noda with Dr. Saroja Vaidyanathan and the artistes at Ganesa Natyalaya.

2. Promotion of Bilateral Economic Relations

Japanese Transport Minister holds discussions with Indian Railway Minister on introduction of High Speed Rail Corridors in India



Mr. Takeshi Maeda (right), Minister for Land Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan, with Mr. Dinesh Trivedi, Minister of Railways of India



Minister Maeda calling on Dr. C.P. Joshi, Minister of Road Transport and Highways of India



Minister Maeda and his delegation having a meeting with Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman - Planning Commission of India

Mr. Takeshi Maeda, Minister for Land Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), Government of Japan, visited New Delhi on 12 January 2012, and called on Mr. Dinesh Trivedi, Minister of Railways, Government of India. Mr. Maeda, accompanied by a high-level Japanese delegation, held discussions with the Indian Railway Board Members on bilateral issues in the field of rail transportation and various aspects of high speed rail (popularly called bullet trains).

The members of the Japanese delegation included Mr. Ryuhei Maeda, Director General for International Affairs, MLIT, Mr. Akhihiko Tamura, Senior Deputy Director General, Railway Bureau, MLIT, Mr. Akitaka Saiki, Ambassador of Japan, Mr. Satoshi Seino, President, East Japan Railway Company, Mr. Tadaharu Ohashi, Chairman, Kawasaki Heavy Industry, and Mr. Makoto Washizu, President, Japan International Transport Institute. The Indian Railways delegation consisted of Mr. Vinay Mittal - Chairman, Railway Board, Ms. Vijaya Kanth, Financial Commissioner, Mr. K. K. Srivastava, Member Traffic, Mr. A. K. Vohra, Member Staff, Mr. Kul Bhushan, Member Electrical, Mr. A. P. Mishra, Member Engineering, and Mr. Sanjiv Handa, Member Mechanical.

There have been efforts from both sides in the last one year in the direction of introducing High Speed Train System in India. A delegation led by Mr. Ryuhei Maeda, Director General for International Affairs, had earlier visited New Delhi in October 2011 and held fruitful interaction with Minister Trivedi and Railway Board officers. This was followed by a visit of Indian Railway officers to Japan to have a first-hand understanding of the Shinkansen system. Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Japan Railway Technical Service (JARTS) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) are also actively involved in this process.

The Indian Ministry of Railways has selected six corridors for conducting pre-feasibility studies. These are; 1) Delhi-Chandigarh-Amritsar, 2) Pune-Mumbai-Ahmedabad, 3) Hyderabad-Dornakal-Vijaywada-Chennai, 4) Chennai-Banalore-Coimbatore-Ernakulam-Trivandrum, 5) Howrah-Haldia and 6) Delhi-Agra-Lucknow-Varanasi.

During the visit, Minister Maeda also had the opportunity to call on Dr. C. P. Joshi, Minister of Road Transport and Highways of India, Mr. G.K. Vasan, Minister of Shipping, as well as Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission.

3. The 60th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and India

Tasting of Japanese Whisky at the Residence of the Ambassador of Japan

Opening event to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and India:



Ambassador Saiki speaking on the occasion

On the evening of Friday, 3rd February 2012, the Embassy of Japan in New Delhi hosted a 60th Anniversary event in cooperation with Suntory Liquors Ltd. The whisky tasting event was held at the residence of the Ambassador of Japan, and around 80 invited guests from various fields such as government, and business, etc., joined the function to enjoy the Japanese whisky.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Akitaka Saiki said, “In this year marking the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and India, I hope the Indian people will re-discover the high quality of Japan, such as its advanced high-technology, traditional culture, food and liquor.”

The evening featured a special film screening about Suntory by award-winning French documentary director, Nils Tavernier, followed by a neat tasting of Suntory’s highly acclaimed whiskies. The guests also enjoyed an exclusive Suntory Whisky Tasting Menu pairing the whiskies with delectable Japanese cuisine.



Guests enjoying the whisky tasting session



One of the Japanese delicacies paired with the whiskies

Government of Japan launches ‘Taste Japan’ to bring exclusive Japanese food products to India

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan recently announced a collaboration with Godrej Nature’s Basket to run three antenna shops in India (located in Juhu - Mumbai, Defence Colony - New Delhi, and Banjara Hill Road - Hyderabad) during the period 1 February to 25 March 2012.

Japanese food is world renowned as a healthy, attractive and delicious cuisine, with Sushi becoming quite popular now in India. There is significant growth in the distribution and consumption of Japanese food in the country, especially in key metros.

This project is an extension of past projects that have promoted Japanese food in India, including projects by MAFF and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), but it is the first time that MAFF has taken the project to New Delhi and Hyderabad.

Comments:

In starting the project, MAFF commented: “First of all, we would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to everyone in India who has extended their support towards Japan following the 11 March 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake. We are pleased to introduce Japanese food products in India, in the three cities of Delhi, Mumbai, and Hyderabad. As you may know, Japan is blessed with four distinct seasons, majestic mountains and pure water, surrounded by seas with abundant

natural resources. Our country, given such favourable conditions, has developed cultures in our various regions, each with its unique, vibrant agricultural and fisheries industries. In these regions, by virtue of Japan’s unique sensibilities of beauty, attention to detail, as well as years of working towards polishing techniques, these natural resources have given birth not only to very tasty products, but food products which are a sight to behold. We would be delighted if you would visit the antenna shops in the three cities and enjoy attractive Japanese food products.”

His Excellency Ambassador Akitaka Saiki, Ambassador of Japan to India, commented: “Amid the expansion of Japan-India relations in various spheres, I am pleased to attend this event with a view to promoting Japanese food to people in India. Japan and India have cultural connections historically. Indian ‘curry and rice’ is very popular in Japanese home cooking, and therefore has a long history in Japan. Sushi is well known for its beautiful appearance, delicate taste, and for being nutritionally well-balanced. As the number of Japanese restaurant grows, Japanese cuisine is becoming popular in India. Through ‘Taste Japan’, which is designated as one of the projects of the 60th anniversary of Japan-India diplomatic relations, we hope that Japanese food items will be more accessible to ordinary Indians and will also contribute to further strengthening bilateral business and cultural ties.”



Taste Japan Brochure with Japanese Food Products procurable at the antenna shops

Passage to the Next Generation

An Indo-Japanese Cultural Festival : January to March 2012

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary celebrations of Japan-India diplomatic relations, many commemorative events are being held in India throughout the year 2012.

As part of the same, the Japan Foundation New Delhi is presenting “**Passage to the Next Generation**” – **An Indo-Japanese Cultural Festival: January to March 2012**. A cultural extravaganza, showcasing the best of Japanese culture and its diversity, celebrates from Jan- March 2012 in India. The festival will celebrate the cultural ties between the two nations and take a look at the future relationship between the two nations as forged by the creativity and ingenuity of the next generation so as to enable creative spaces for deeper understanding between the two cultures.

For more details of the events, kindly visit: <http://www.ij2012.com/> or follow on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/India-Japan-Passage-to-the-Next-Generation/193887424035320?sk=info>

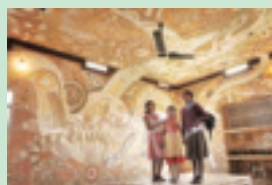
Some of the highlight events, which have already happened or are shortly going to take place, are as follows:



Wall Art Festival in Niranjana School - 2012

“An annual art festival takes place in Bihar, India.”

The non-profit art exhibition will take place from 18-20 February 2012 at an NGO primary school, Niranjana School, Sujata Village, Bodh-Gaya, Bihar. Two Indian and two Japanese artists, namely, Alwar Balasubramaniam and Rajesh Chaity Vangad from India, and Ichiro Endo and Yusuke Asai from Japan, will paint on the white walls of four separate classrooms. Each artist will paint a different classroom in his or her style. In addition, all of the artists will collaborate in painting different parts of the school. This wall art will be exhibited for all who wanted to come. Also, there will be workshops provided for the students.

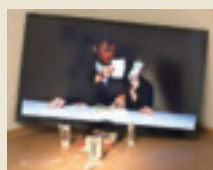


The artists will present a talk at Japan Foundation, New Delhi, on 24 February, followed by an exhibition of their works from 27 February to 4 March 2012.

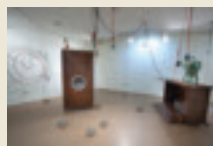


The aims of the Wall Art Festival included to give children the experience of art and to stimulate their creativity. It also helped coerce the guardians of the children into realizing the importance of education. Another aim was to convey the real situation of village life in Bihar to the rest of the world. The organizers intend to hand over the WAF to local people after two years to independently govern and run the Wall Art Festival to achieve the above aims continuously.

Omnilogue : Journey to the West



Images courtesy:
“LUCIDA”



This Japanese contemporary art exhibition was jointly planned by young curators from India, Japan and Thailand.

Hints of its “Journey to the West” motif originate from two historical interactions. The first is based on an intellectual exchange between Rabindranath Tagore, a poet and philosopher from India, and Okakura Tenshin, an art historian and philosopher from Japan, at the beginning of the 20th century. The second is based on a trip to India by Sanzo Genjo, the basis of the story of the famous Chinese classic novel *Saiyuki* (“record of the Journey to the West”) written in the 16th century. Taking hints from these two interactions, the art exchange is expected to have the potential to open up new discussion on cultural exchange in the 21st century.

Six artists seek to draw connections between India and Japan from multiple perspectives of history and culture, based on field investigation, and express a singular concept through each piece. The Omnilogue exhibition in New Delhi, titled, ‘**Journey to the West**’, explored the politics of culture, nationalism, friendship, otherness and the Asian imagination within the narratives of travel and dialogue occurring across different periods and locations.

The exhibition was on display at the Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, from 22 January to 19 February 2012.

Japanese Design Today 100



The design of household items acts as a mirror that reflects our lifestyle. This exhibition introduces 90 designs for household items that were produced during the 1990s, and 13 others, in which we see the roots of contemporary design, from the post-war Japan of the 1950s. Some of the items became the basis of Japanese modern design in the post-war era. Today's Japanese designs seem to have inherited the characteristics of these post-war items. The exhibits included some that touched upon the present-day designs. Focusing on computers in Japan, the direction of the designs of electronics is headed towards miniaturization. Some items such as the "Dynamic Headphone" and "Art Monitor Headphone" were made from materials such as wood and metal. They were carefully crafted to reveal the beauty of the materials. Although this has nothing to do with the function of the product, the art of showing the beauty of the materials of a product is a traditional Japanese way of crafting things. The special characteristics of Japanese designs are its attractiveness and charm. This is seen very often in the designs of home electronic products.



The exhibition took place in Mumbai from Dec.18, 2011 to Jan.8, 2012, followed by the Lalit Kala Akademi in Chennai from 18 to 17 January, and then a showing at the Japan Foundation New Delhi, from 6 to 15 February 2012. It will also be held in Lucknow from 23 March to 1 April.

Through this exhibition, people can understand today's Japanese designs and lifestyle culture .

Animation Workshop



An animation workshop by Maya Yonesho, an animation director from Japan, will take place at the Japan Foundation New Delhi, from 26–28 February 2012.

Born in Hyogo, Japan 1965, Ms. Yonesho has studied Visual Design and Animation at Kyoto Saga University of Arts. After working as an art teacher at a junior high school for 6 years, she returned to college to study Japanese painting and conceptual & media art at Kyoto City University of Arts, and also worked for a children's TV program as a clay animator. She made her first abstract animated short film synchronized with 13 international languages under the theme "we can understand each other without understanding each language" when studying at the Royal College of Art, UK, as an exchange student. After receiving her MA of fine art (1998), she began making independent films include "believe in it" which has won the Excellence prize of Agency for Cultural Affairs of Japan in 1998. She has stayed in Eesti Joonis Film Studio, Estonia, from 2002 to 2003 under the Japanese Government Study Program for Promising Artists and Art Fellowships, and has made "Üks Uks" with 8 Estonian bookbinding artists. She made a trailer of Tricky Women International Female Animation Festival in 2005. Her films have been shown at numerous international festivals and museums including Kunsthalle, Dusseldorf, Germany, and Design museum in Estonia. She is also conducting various animation workshops.

"Wiener Wuast" was shot in Vienna with real view, with drawing in her hand. She has done similar workshops in Taiwan, Norway, Croatia, Israel and Poland. It will be continued as her life work. She has been a lecturer of Kyoto Seika University from 2000.



‘Nihonga-A Japanese Style’: Painting Exhibition by Ms. Madhu Jain

As part of the cultural events being held in 2012 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Japan, an exhibition of ‘Nihonga’ style paintings by renowned artist, Ms. Madhu Jain, was held in the Nehru Centre Art Gallery, Dr Annie Besant Road, Worli, Mumbai, from 10th to 16th of January 2012.

According to Ms. Jain, her art is eco-friendly and uses over fifteen hundred eco-friendly colours, rolls of imported natural handmade paper, and a very unique style of painting called Nihonga. The artist, using special rock powders derived from natural minerals, shells, corals, semi-precious stones, gold and silver leaves, has created Nihongas that have an unmistakable Indian touch.

The Consul General of Japan, Mr. Tamon Mochida, who was present on the first day of the exhibition, appreciated her work and remarked, “These paintings are not Indian; they are a collaboration of Japanese techniques and pigments but the theme is very Indian. And it showcases the Indo-Japanese association.”

After 35 years of making water and oil paintings, Ms. Madhu Jain, inspired by the Nihongas she saw at an exhibition in Japan, decided to learn the unique and traditional art form. She studied the Japanese language for seven years, so that she could learn the techniques from the masters who could not impart the knowledge in any other language.

“My art has been appreciated worldwide and I’ve had many international and national exhibitions. This technique of using rock pigments originated in India but has long gone from our country and is no longer known or used by anyone here. I am



Ms. Madhu Jain with Mr. Tamon Mochida, Consul General of Japan in Mumbai, at the inauguration of her painting exhibition

perhaps the only artist who does this work” says Ms. Jain.

The paintings are done on Washi paper rolls that are a type of handmade paper from fibers of plants. Shell powder or Gofun is derived from weathered natural oyster shells, which are crushed, ground with a stone mill, refined with water and dried naturally. Ms. Jain adds, “There are different gradations of the powders and each gives a different effect. I use resin or Nikawa - available in the form of crystals or long sticks - to make the glue in a double boiler. This resin and a few drops of water are added to the pigment and then the painting is done using Japanese brushes. The water evaporates and then the glue helps the pigments to stick to the handmade paper.”

This technique, claims Ms. Madhu Jain, is by far the most eco-friendly form of art work because everything used is natural and organic, and imported from Japan.

“WE ARE ALL FRIENDS – MY PICTURE AND YOUR PICTURE”

- Exhibition of Pictures by Children of India and Japan -

The Ritsumeikan India Office organized an exhibition of pictures by children of India and Japan, entitled “We are all Friends – My Picture and Your Picture” at the Japan Foundation, New Delhi, from December 6 to 12, 2011.

The event, featuring an exhibition of 300 paintings done by children of India and Japan, was held with the aim of promoting mutual understanding and friendship among children all over

the world and contribute towards world peace through painting as a universal language.

The exhibition was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Akitaka Saiki, Ambassador of Japan, on December 6. An art workshop in “Sumi-e” (Japanese traditional wash drawing) and a symposium on “Environmental Education and International Cooperation” was also conducted on the first day of the exhibition.

4. Other Bilateral Cultural Exchanges

Nihon No Kaori Japanese Language Festival held in New Delhi

'Nihon No Kaori', the Annual Interschool Japanese Language Festival, organized by the DPS Society was held at Delhi Public School R.K Puram on 9th November 2011. The Principal, Dr. D.R. Saini, welcomed all the guests. Mr Ashok Chandra, Chairman of DPS Society, also graced the occasion. The chief guest for the occasion was Mr. Ryoji Noda, Director, Japan Information Center. The Guests of Honour were Mr Katsuma Doi, Director, The Japan Foundation, and Mr. Shinichi Yamanaka, Chief Representative, JICA. Other guests included Professor A. Mani, Vice President - Asia Pacific University, Japan, Mr. Yuji Yamamoto, a calligraphy artist, and the principals of various participating schools. 27 schools participated in the festival.

The objective of the festival was to celebrate and promote the Japanese language as well as the celebration of the Japanese spirit of 'Wa'- harmony. The festival comprised six events, namely, poster making, calligraphy and fancy dress, group song, story telling, and the ad zap competition, which were judged by eminent personalities from JOCV, JICA and JNU. These competitions showcased the talent of students from schools across Delhi and surrounding regions. The events saw some truly exuberant and enthralling performances. Mr. Yamanaka, Mr. Doi and Mr. Noda appreciated the display of Japanese culture. The Chairman addressed the students and expressed the view that, "learning a language cannot be the end in itself; we also need to learn about the culture and ethos". An entertaining talk show was conducted about the similarities and dissimilarities of India and Japan.

Finally, the prize distribution ceremony was held. In the group song competition, the second runners-up were DPS Sonapat and Bluebells School; the first runners up, Ramjas School; and the first prize went to DPS Rohini. For the fancy dress competition, second runners up were DPS Noida;

first runners up DPS Maruti Kunj; and the first prize was bagged by DPS Panipat. DPS Dwarka were the second runners-up in the story telling competition; the first runners up was Arwachin International School; and the first prize was won by DPS R.K Puram.

In the calligraphy, the second runners were up Bluebells school; first runners up, DPS R.K Puram; and Arwachin International School and DPS Indirapuram tied for the first prize. For poster making, 2nd runners up prize went to DPS Greater Noida and DPS Vasant Kunj; first runners up to DPS East of Kailash; and the first prize was won by Bluebells school. Finally, in the ad zap competition, second runners-up was DPS Indirapuram; first runners up, DPS RK Puram; and the first prize went to DPS Noida.

The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks by Ms. Vanita Sehgal, the Headmistress of middle school and the coordinator of the event. This was followed by the national anthems of the two countries. The event, as Prof. Mani said, "provided a strong bridge between the two countries and the various schools".

Some entries of the poster making contest displayed



Participants of the fancy dress competition in Japanese dresses



Group Song sung by the students



The Japanese guests with some of the prize winners

JAPAN QUIZ 2011

The 2011 edition of the Japan Quiz, held on 23 November 2011, at the Sai International Auditorium, Lodi Road, New Delhi, saw 145 teams from over 50 schools in the Delhi-NCR participating in this amazing quiz on Japan. Now in its 8th year, this inter-school quiz has always witnessed keen competition from students, and this year was no exception. 145 teams, each comprising 3 bright students from class 8 to 12 answered questions like “During which period were the lyrics of the Japanese national anthem Kimigayo written?” and “What name is given to the Japanese traditional custom of enjoying the beauty of flowers – usually cherry blossoms from end March to early May?” in a written preliminary test to qualify for the stage rounds. The admissions to the quiz were stopped at 125 teams, due to space and seating constraints, but a few more which turned up at the venue were accommodated for the quiz in the interest of spreading knowledge of Japan.

The top 12 teams were thus chosen – on the basis of their scores in the preliminary test – for 2 pre-final quizzes. These pre-finals were high-speed multimedia shots with visual and oral questions challenging the teams on their knowledge of all things Japanese.

The top 3 teams from each of the two pre-final rounds then made it through to the Final Quiz. Conducted by quizmaster Aditty Nath Mubayi of Quizcraft, the teams from Springdales School (Dhaura Kuan), New Era Public School (Mayapuri), Delhi Public School (Mathura Road), St. Thomas School (Mandir Marg), and Bal Bharati Public School (NOIDA), battled it out for over an hour in front of a Japan-themed set, before the trio named “3 Men from Subhash Nagar” from New Era Public School managed to pip their competitors, namely, the “Nanmori High Disciplinary Committee” from Delhi Public School, and the “Batamochi Boyz” from Springdales School, into the 2nd and 3rd place respectively, in the final buzzer round.

Classic films like Kurosawa’s *Ikiru* and *Dersu Uzala*, contemporary ones (*Hana-bi*) and anime favourites (*My Neighbor Totoro*) all provided insights and correct answers from the teams, who astounded the Director of the Japanese Information Centre, Mr Ryoji Noda, with the breadth and depth of their knowledge. Mr Noda admitted, possibly with a feeling of great satisfaction, that even he did not know the answers to some of the questions that the students were able to answer. Truly, the interest in Japan is increasing by the year.

Quizmaster Aditty Nath Mubayi said after the quiz, “We have been conducting this quiz since the beginning for the Embassy of Japan, and each year, the bar in terms of the contestants’ knowledge levels keeps getting pushed higher. It is amazing how much these children know about the Land of the Rising Sun!”

The first-prize winners of the quiz shall go to Japan on a cross-cultural exchange trip as part of the JENESYS programme in 2012. This is the 2nd year in succession that New Era Public School has won the Japan Quiz.



The first prize winning team from New Era Public School with Mr. Aditya Nath Mubayi, Quizmaster (left), and Mr. Ryoji Noda, Director - Japan Information Centre (right)

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